State of Vermont Executive Department A Proclamation

WHEREAS, familial hypercholesterolemia is the most common genetic condition causing high

levels of LDL cholesterol (also known as "bad" cholesterol) and an increased risk

for early and aggressive cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 2,500 individuals in Vermont have familial

Hypercholesterolemia, but fewer than 30 percent of those people have actually been

diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, five percent of heart attacks that occur in individuals under age 60 and up to 20

percent of heart attacks that occur in individuals under age 45 are due to familial

hypercholesterolemia; and

WHEREAS, familial hypercholesterolemia can be identified via the collection of a detailed family

history of cardiovascular disease and a blood cholesterol screen and if necessary,

confirmed with DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, cholesterol screening is recommended for children at age 2 with a family history of

high cholesterol or early onset cardiovascular disease; for all children between the ages of 9 and 11; once again, for all young adults between the ages of 17 and 21; and

for all adults approximately every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the parents, siblings, and children of a person diagnosed with familial

hypercholesterolemia have a 50 percent chance to also have familial hypercholesterolemia and should be screened to determine whether they do have

familial hypercholesterolemia; and

WHEREAS, early treatment with cholesterol-lowering medications in individuals with familial

hypercholesterolemia can reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 24th, 2024, as

FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIA AWARENESS DAY in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of

Vermon on this 23rd day of September, A.D. 2024.

Philip B. Scott Governor

Brittney **W**ilson

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs