

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or (ME/CFS), is a severe multisystem neuroimmune disease that causes dysfunction of the neurological, immune, endocrine, and energy metabolism systems; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS leaves 25% of patients homebound or bedbound, and as many as 75% unable to work; and

WHEREAS, because of stigma and lack of attention by the government and the research and medical communities, patients struggle to access appropriate medical care and rarely recover due to lack of treatments, resulting in loss of hope and thus higher rates of suicide; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, ME/CFS was estimated to affect 1 to 2.5 million Americans, up to 8,400 in Vermont, and 17 million worldwide at an annual cost to our country's economy of \$18 billion to \$24 billion in lost productivity and medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has since resulted in a significantly higher incidence of ME/CFS and related infection-associated chronic illness, with studies indicating approximately half of long COVID patients meet ME/CFS diagnostic criteria; and

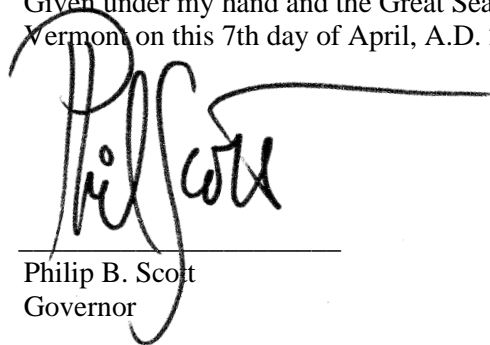
WHEREAS, awareness of ME/CFS should lead to increased funding for research by the federal government and private entities and result in better medical care with more accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatments.

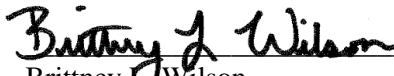
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the 12th day of May, 2024, as

**MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME
AWARENESS DAY**
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 7th day of April, A.D. 2024.


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs