



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, neuromyelitis optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 4,000 people with NMO in the United States and 250,000 worldwide; and

WHEREAS, NMO is more common in women than men by 80 percent; it can occur at any age – in children as young as 3 and adults as old as 90 – but appears most often between ages 40 and 50; and

WHEREAS, NMO is a relapsing-remitting disease that can lead to accumulating disability with devastating and irreversible effects on function if left untreated; while there is no known cure for NMO, early diagnosis and treatment are critical to a good long-term outcome; and

WHEREAS, increased public awareness of NMO is vital to promote diagnosis at the earliest stage and ensure individuals receive proper medical attention; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages support for the patients and families living with NMO in our communities, and commends the advocates, researchers, and medical professionals who dedicate their time and resources to raise awareness regarding this disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2018, as “NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.