



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

**MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS, FIBROMYALGIA, CHRONIC LYME,
AND MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY AWARENESS DAY**

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis [ME/CFS], Fibromyalgia [FM], Chronic Lyme disease, and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity [MCS] are all Complex Immunological and Neurological Diseases [CIND]; and

WHEREAS, ME is extremely difficult to diagnose, but can be characterized as follows: exacerbation of systemic illness following any forms of exertion, debilitating in its severity; an inability to properly generate energy within cells which prevents most sufferers from working, studying, or otherwise living a normal and functional life; and potentially as impairing as multiple sclerosis, late-stage AIDS, and chemotherapy cancer treatment with no known effective treatment or cure; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Lyme disease also can be severely disabling, with a post-sepsis like outcome, and needs accurate and valid Lyme testing as it is often misdiagnosed as ME, CFS, FM, or multiple sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a disease characterized by severe pain in muscles, ligaments, and tendons which can prevent sufferers from working or engaging in any physical activity; and

WHEREAS, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity can cause an allergic-like reaction in individuals when exposed to a number of different pollutants such as chemicals, perfumes, and other environmental triggers; and

WHEREAS, some forms of these diseases can leave patients homebound and/or bedbound, resulting in social isolation, stress on the families of those suffering, financial hardship, and suicide or death; and

WHEREAS, 25 years ago, staunch advocate Thomas Hennessy, Jr., an ME and Lyme patient, chose May 12th as International Awareness Day for these illnesses to commemorate the birth of famous nurse Florence Nightingale, who suffered from an ME/CFS-like illness; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness and education for Complex Immunological and Neurological Diseases—which affect millions of individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds in the United States, including many living in North Carolina—can help patients get diagnosed earlier, receive proper treatment and compassionate care, and foster support for individuals and families coping with these life-altering conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2017, as “**MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS, FIBROMYALGIA, CHRONIC LYME, AND MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY AWARENESS DAY**” 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 first day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.