



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 4th most common neurological disorder after migraine, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy causes seizures that temporarily affect a person's consciousness, body movements, and/or sensations, and can permanently affect the lifestyle of the person diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015, there were 110,100 people in North Carolina with active epilepsy, meaning they were taking medication or undergoing treatment; 15,200 of these individuals were under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, in 70 percent of epilepsy diagnoses, the cause is unknown; however, some common causes are stroke, brain tumor, brain infections, traumatic brain injury, and other genetic or neurological diseases; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy accounts for \$15.5 billion in direct and indirect costs nationally each year; adults with epilepsy experience health and social disparities, and report worse mental health, cognitive impairment, and barriers in social participation; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of those diagnosed with epilepsy have seizures that can be controlled with drug therapies, surgery, or other forms of treatment including dietary approaches, assistive technology, and electrical devices; however, the remaining 30 – 40 percent have intractable epilepsy, which is medication resistant and extremely difficult to treat; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we support funding for epilepsy research, raise awareness to prevent SUDEP (Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy), and eliminate the social stigma surrounding epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes Epilepsy Awareness Month and encourages citizens to spread understanding, education, and compassion in order to improve the lives of people living with epilepsy and their families in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November, 2017, as "EPILEPSY 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-fifth day of October 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.