



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and/or circumstances in which patients are unable to speak for themselves, and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, NCGS 90-322 and 32A-15 provide the specifics of advance directive laws and offer optional forms for patient use; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only 23 percent of Americans have executed an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, lack of knowledge and considerable confusion contribute to the low percentage of citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the main objectives of Health Care Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, medical practices, hospices and other organizations to participate in a state-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and attorneys to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, organizations throughout North Carolina have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Health Care Decisions Day in North Carolina, more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions and execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2017, as **"HEALTH CARE DECISIONS 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 thirteenth day of April 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.