

State of North Carolina **ROY COOPER** GOVERNOR

HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, hydrocephalus is a condition in which excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain results in abnormal widening of the ventricles; there is no known cure, and this condition creates harmful pressure on the tissues of the brain and can be fatal if untreated; and

WHEREAS, the two primary types of hydrocephalus are congenital hydrocephalus, which is present at birth and may be caused by genetic abnormalities during fetal development; and acquired hydrocephalus, which can develop at the time of birth or any age, and may be caused by injury or disease; and

WHEREAS, two other forms of hydrocephalus which primarily affect adults are ex-vacuo, which occurs when a stroke or traumatic injury cause damage to the brain; and normal pressure hydrocephalus, which is most common among older adults and often has no known cause; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that it affects more than one million Americans, or 1.5 of every 1,000 live births, and approximately 700,000 older Americans; and

WHEREAS, the only treatment for hydrocephalus is brain surgery, in which a shunt system is inserted to divert the flow of cerebrospinal fluid to another area of the body where it can be absorbed as part of the normal circulatory process; and

WHEREAS, hydrocephalus poses risks to both cognitive and physical development and often requires multiple brain surgeries over a lifetime; however, children diagnosed with the disorder benefit from early intervention programs, rehabilitation therapies and educational interventions; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the United States Congress passed a resolution designating September as National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the Hydrocephalus Association, all other concerned organizations, individuals, agencies and businesses in raising public awareness of this condition to increase understanding and build support for those and their families affected by hydrocephalus in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2019, as "HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



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-eighth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.