

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

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

**2020**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), chronic Lyme disease (CLD), fibromyalgia (FM), and multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) are all complex immunological and neurological diseases that affect millions of people and cause substantial economic burden to North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, ME, also referred to as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), is a complex disease involving profound dysregulation of the central nervous system and immune system, dysfunction of cellular energy metabolism and ion transport, and cardiovascular abnormalities; ME is often misdiagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome or fibromyalgia; and

**WHEREAS**, CLD can be severely disabling with a post-sepsis like outcome; this disease necessitates accurate testing and is often misdiagnosed as ME, FM, or multiple sclerosis; and

**WHEREAS**, FM is characterized by severe pain in muscles, ligaments, and tendons; and

**WHEREAS**, MCS can cause a person to experience allergic-like reactions when exposed to pollutants; and

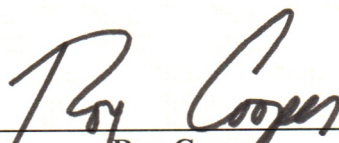
**WHEREAS**, some forms of these diseases can leave patients homebound and/or bedbound, resulting in social isolation, financial hardship, risk of mental illness and suicide, or death; and

**WHEREAS**, advocate Thomas Hennessy, Jr., an ME and Lyme patient, chose May 12 as an awareness day for these illnesses to commemorate Florence Nightingale, who suffered from an ME-like illness; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness can help people and families dealing with these diseases throughout North Carolina receive appropriate medical intervention, compassionate care, and support;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2020, as “**MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS, CHRONIC LYME DISEASE, FIBROMYALGIA, AND MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY AWARENESS DAY**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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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 seventh day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.