



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

WORLD LYMPHEDEMA DAY

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, lymphedema (LE) is a lifelong, chronic, progressive, and incurable disease that disrupts the lymphatic system, a major body system that cleans toxins and debris from the entire body; and

WHEREAS, LE causes the buildup of protein-rich toxins that creates chronic inflammation, making it easy for simple cuts, scrapes, and insect bites to develop into serious infections or cellulitis; and

WHEREAS, a common symptom of LE involves swelling in the arms or legs and can affect the head, neck, and other areas of the body; and

WHEREAS, approximately 10 million Americans, among hundreds of millions worldwide, suffer from lymphedema and lymphatic diseases; more people in the United States suffer from these diseases than from multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, most cases of LE occur after cancer treatment or non-cancer related surgeries (secondary lymphedema); there are some cases where people are born with it or develop it later in life (primary lymphedema); and

WHEREAS, LE can be extremely painful, causing chronic pain in the affected area that can be debilitating and result in individuals not being able to work, drive a vehicle, or participate in the everyday enjoyments of life; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of LE is crucial to manage the disease before serious, lifelong, and expensive complications develop; and

WHEREAS, March 6th has been proclaimed as World Lymphedema Day (WLD) by the United States, and among many other countries worldwide, to recognize lymphedema and lymphatic diseases, and encourage people to raise awareness and support for those individuals and their families affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 6, 2020, as **“WORLD LYMPHEDEMA 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 fourth day of March 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.