

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a motor neuron disease affecting the voluntary muscles used for crawling, walking, head and neck control and swallowing; and

Whereas Spinal muscular atrophy is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two; and

Whereas In order for a child to be affected by SMA, both parents must be carriers of the abnormal gene and both must pass the gene on to their children. The likelihood of a child inheriting the gene is 1 in 40; and

Whereas There are four types of SMA, Wernig-Hoffman Disease, Type II, Kugelberg-Welander and Type IV Adult Onset. In the adult form of SMA, symptoms begin after age 35 and is less common than the other three types; and

Whereas SMA crosses all racial, ethnic, age and gender boundaries; and

Whereas Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of spinal muscular atrophy among all Massachusetts residents,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim June 21st, 2008, to be,

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, tenth day of June, in the year two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick".

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts