

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Pain is a major public health problem and is the number one reason Americans seek medical care; and

Whereas More than 100 million Americans live with chronic pain as a result of serious illnesses and injuries; and

Whereas One in four adult and among minorities, twice that number, suffer from chronic pain in Massachusetts; and

Whereas Pain negatively impacts almost every aspect of a person's life including the ability to work, sleep and engage in social activities as well as adversely impacts pain sufferers' families and caregivers; and

Whereas The National Institute of Health estimates that pain costs the United States public over \$560 to \$630 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, lost productivity and other associated costs; and

Whereas The Massachusetts Pain Initiative, the American Pain Foundation, the American Chronic Pain Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Academy of Pain Management, the American Society for Pain Management Nursing and the American Society for Pain Management Nursing Eastern Massachusetts Chapter are all working together in Massachusetts to remove the barriers to effective pain care for all Massachusetts citizens and eliminate the under treatment of pain,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September, 2011 to be,

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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, this twenty-fifth day of August, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.



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