

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

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

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

*Whereas One in four adults and among minorities, twice that number suffer from serious 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 impacting pain sufferers' families and caregivers; and*

*Whereas The Institute of Medicine has found that pain costs the United States economy \$560 to \$630 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, lost productivity and other associated costs; and*

*Whereas the Massachusetts Pain Initiative, the U.S. Pain Foundation, the Tufts University School of Medicine's Program on Pain Research, Education and Policy, the American Chronic Pain Association, the Academy of Integrative Pain Management, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, the American Society for Pain Management Nursing Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, the National Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Association and the American Academy of Pain Medicine, 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, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2016, 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 first Day of September, in the year two thousand and sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.*

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

*God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*