

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma and severe bronchiectasis; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States, 12 years earlier than predicted, and the only top 5 causes of death that is not declining; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million persons nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70% of whom are under age 65; and

WHEREAS, COPD is considered to be the 2nd leading causes of disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD, other risk factors include environmental and exposure to air pollution, second hand smoke, and genetics; and

WHEREAS, a genetic condition called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency tends to cause individuals to develop COPD; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, the cost of COPD in 2010 was \$49.9 billion including healthcare services, indirect costs through loss of productivity, and the deterioration of personal health; and

WHEREAS, concerted public outreach efforts such as a DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening campaign for COPD, and the NHLBI's COPD: Learn More Breathe Better Campaign, can dramatically improve public awareness of COPD, and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for COPD, but increased awareness, early detection and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs, improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for our residents and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim November 2012 as

COPD AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 7th day of November, A.D. 2012



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Shumlin', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor