

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the state of Vermont has averaged approximately 465 new cases of prostate cancer annually and over 60 deaths from prostate cancer annually; and

WHEREAS, forty percent of new diagnoses of prostate cancer occur in men under the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, African-American males suffer a prostate cancer incidence rate up to 65 percent higher than white males and double the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, one in seven Vermont men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime, and one man in 39 will die of this disease. If a man in Vermont has one close family member (father or brother) diagnosed with prostate cancer, his risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer doubles, and if he has more than one close family member diagnosed with prostate cancer, his risk is greater; and

WHEREAS, when diagnosed in its early stages, the chances of surviving prostate cancer for more than five years is nearly 100 percent, while only 28 percent of men survive more than five years if diagnosed during the late stages of the disease; and

WHEREAS, having frank and detailed discussions with a primary care provider about the potential harms and benefits of screening and treatment is essential in order to make an informed decision about screening for prostate cancer. Men at average risk should start talking to their doctors beginning at age 50. Men at higher risk (including African Americans and men who have a close relative with prostate cancer) should talk to their doctor about prostate testing as early as age 40;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim September 2015 as

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

and urge all men to talk to their health care professionals and become aware of the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening and treatment.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 15th day of September, A.D. 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor