

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, while approximately 340 orphan drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases affecting between 11 and 14 million people according to the Food and Drug Administration, that leaves well over 15 million Americans with rare diseases who have no treatment specific to their disease; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS, some rare diseases, such as “Lou Gehrig's disease” and Huntington’s disease, are relatively well known, many others are not known at all by the public so that patients and their families must bear a large share of the burden for things such as raising funds for research; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Vermont are among those affected by rare diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2014 as

RARE DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19 day of February, A.D. 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor