

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two, and one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA; and

**WHEREAS**, SMA is a motor neuron disease that affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and there is currently no treatment or cure for SMA, which is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, and can strike anyone of any age or gender; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both disease and research and for families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, patient groups have named August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim August 2016 as

**SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH**

in Vermont



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 14th day of July, A.D. 2016

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

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Peter Shumlin  
Governor