

**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, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin
Governor