



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately half a million *C.difficile* infections occur per year that require hospital treatment or affect those already hospitalized; and

WHEREAS, approximately 29,000 patients die within thirty days of the initial diagnosis of *C.difficile* of which about 15,000 deaths were estimated to be directly attributable to *C.diff* infection; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that *C.difficile* has become the most common microbial cause of healthcare-associated infections in United States hospitals and costs up to \$4.8 billion each year in excess health care costs for acute care facilities alone; and

WHEREAS, one out of every five patients with a healthcare-associated *C.difficile* infection experiences a recurrence of the infection, and 1 out of every 9 patients, aged 65 or older, with a healthcare-associated *C.difficile* infection died within 30 days of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, health care facilities employ dedicated professionals who advocate for improving health and promoting patient and staff safety in order to minimize and prevent *C.difficile* infections; and

WHEREAS, improved health practices, such as thorough hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning can significantly reduce the risk and spread of *C.difficile* infections; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the education of healthcare workers on proper infection prevention techniques is proven to reduce all types healthcare-associated infections; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all of citizens of Alabama is important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our families and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 2018, as

C. difficile (*Clostridium difficile*) Infection Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 9th day of October 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor