



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is committed to increasing the health literacy of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, federal law defines health literacy as the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain, communicate, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health decisions; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the adults in Alabama experience difficulty understanding and using health information impacting their full participation in making health decisions; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents suffer from chronic ailments that require health literacy and numeracy skills to manage, such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma; and

WHEREAS, people with low health literacy are twice as likely as others to be hospitalized, more likely to have chronic health issues and less likely to seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, health-care cost continues to rise, and low health literacy costs as much as \$238 billion each year in an already overburdened U.S. health care system; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Alabama Health Literacy Initiative was established with leadership from academia, medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, hospitals, business, philanthropic organizations, community agencies, professional and industry health care associations and foundations, as well as patients to serve on the Advisory Board to explore ways to improve the health literacy of Alabamians

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially recognized Alabama as a state with an established health literacy organization linking Alabama in partnership with others throughout the nation to plan, coordinate, and implement health literacy activities and conduct research;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 2019, as

Health Literacy 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 27th day of August 2019.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor