



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, there are more than 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect an estimated 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, only 5 percent of rare diseases have FDA approved treatments, and millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS, while the public is familiar with some rare diseases and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research, and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments, and thousands of residents of Alabama are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 11 Americans have rare diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 29, 2020, as

Rare Disease Awareness Day

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 5th day of November 2019.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor