Proclamation
By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), previously known as Devic’s disease, is a rare autoimmune disease that primarily affects the eye nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO occurs when the body’s immune system reacts against its own cells; and

WHEREAS, NMO may cause blindness, weakness or paralysis in the legs or arms, painful spasms, loss of sensation, uncontrollable vomiting and hiccups, and bladder or bowel dysfunction from spinal cord damage; and

WHEREAS, the cause of NMO is still largely unknown, and there are currently no FDA-approved treatments for the disease; and

WHEREAS, NMO is often misdiagnosed as Multiple Sclerosis, but it is a distinct condition; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for NMO, there are therapies aimed at treating episodes in progress, reducing symptoms, and preventing relapses; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness about NMO has caused NMO diagnoses to rise, as doctors have become better able to recognize the varying manifestations of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the NMO community is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of this disease in order to promote research, improve patient care and outcomes and find a cure;

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

Neuromyelitis Optica
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 16th day of December 2019.

Kay Ivey, Governor