



# 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor