



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, diabetes affects 29.1 million people, 9.3% of the population in the United States, and is a serious disease for which there is no known cure and which is the seventh leading cause of death by disease in the United States; and

*WHEREAS*, approximately one quarter of Americans who have diabetes, 8.1 million (27.8%) do not know they have the disease and may experience damage to the heart, eyes, kidneys and limbs without producing any symptoms; and

*WHEREAS*, another 86 million, or 1 in 3 American adults, has pre-diabetes, a condition which puts them at greater risk for developing Type 2 diabetes, and if current trends continue, 1 in 3 American adults will have diabetes by 2050; and

*WHEREAS*, Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease in which a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables people to get energy from food. It occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, called beta cells. While its causes are not yet entirely understood, scientists believe that both genetic factors and environmental triggers are involved. Its onset has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle. There is no prevention for T1D, and— at present— no cure; and

*WHEREAS*, T1D strikes both children and adults at any age. It comes on suddenly, causes dependence on injected or pumped insulin for life and carries the constant threat of devastating complications; and

*WHEREAS*, 1.25 million Americans are living with T1D including about 200,000 youth (those less than 20 years old) and over a million adults (those 20 years old and older); 40,000 people are diagnosed each year in the U.S.; 5 million people in the U.S. are expected to have T1D by 2050, including nearly 600,000 youth; between 2001 and 2009 there was a 21% increase in the prevalence of T1D in people under age 20; \$14 billion T1D-associated healthcare costs in the U.S alone each year; and

*WHEREAS*, diabetes has many faces, affecting everyone, young and old alike – Caucasians, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders – with minority populations in the United States having an increased risk for developing the disease; and

*WHEREAS*, an increase in community awareness of risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes can improve the likelihood that people with diabetes will get the attention they need before suffering the devastating complications of the disease;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 2017, as

# Diabetes Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama and encourage all citizens to help fight this disease and its deadly complications, including heart and kidney disease, stroke, blindness, and amputation, by increasing awareness of the risk factors for diabetes, and by providing support to those suffering from diabetes.



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 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2017.

*Kay Ivey*

Kay Ivey, Governor