



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune disease of the skin, that in its most common form, causes painful itchy lesions of red inflamed skin covered with silvery scales; and

WHEREAS, these lesions most often occur on the elbows, knees, legs, lower back, scalp, face, palms and soles of feet, but can occur anywhere on the skin, including on the fingernails, the toenails, the soft tissue of the genitals and inside the mouth; and

WHEREAS, psoriasis is not contagious, but is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors that mistakenly trigger the body's immune system, causing skin cells to grow too rapidly and accumulate in the skin's top layers, leading to the formation of lesions; and

WHEREAS, psoriasis appears equally in men and women and affects individuals of all ethnicities and age groups, although the disease primarily affects adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Health, psoriasis affects about seven-and-a-half million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health estimates that approximately 30% of people with psoriasis are also affected with psoriatic arthritis, which causes joint pain, stiffness and swelling similar to rheumatoid arthritis, as well as painful swelling of fingers toes foot pain and lower back pain; and

WHEREAS, people with psoriasis may struggle with significant physical discomfort that interferes with mobility, sleep, self-care, caring for family members, employment in certain occupations and physical exercise or other rigorous activities; and

WHEREAS, people with psoriasis may also struggle with significant psychological distress, including feelings of self-consciousness and stigma about their appearances, fear of public rejection, significant depression and social isolation; and

WHEREAS, although several treatments for psoriasis currently exist, effective treatment can be challenging due to the disease's unpredictable cycles of improvement and worsening, patients' varying responses to the same treatment, the possibilities of resistance to repeat treatments over time and the serious side effects involved in certain treatments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2018, as

National Psoriasis Week

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 26th day of March 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor