

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



A PROCLAMATION



BY HIS EXCELLENCY
GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

Whereas Hepatitis C is a common bloodborne viral infection which can cause chronic liver disease that has become the leading indication for liver transplantation among adults in the U.S. and is one of the principal causes of liver cancer and cirrhosis; and

Whereas According to the Department of Public Health, more than 100,000 citizens of the Commonwealth are chronically infected with the hepatitis C virus; and

Whereas The majority of infected individuals are not aware of their infection because they have no recognizable symptoms and may unknowingly transmit hepatitis C to others; and

Whereas People infected with hepatitis C should know of their infection sooner rather than later or they may lose opportunities for prevention and treatment; and

Whereas Hepatitis C impacts all ages, racial and ethnic groups, and socioeconomic classes in every county in Massachusetts and any efforts to increase awareness of hepatitis C should include information that is culturally, linguistically and literacy level appropriate; and

Whereas No vaccine currently exists for hepatitis C, but vaccination against hepatitis A and B can protect the individual from additional significant liver disease; and

Whereas Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of Hepatitis C among all Massachusetts citizens,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 2007, to be

HEPATITIS C AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirtieth.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick".

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor of the Commonwealth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS