

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Von Hippel-Lindau, abbreviated VHL, is a the abnormal growth of blood vessels in parts of the body; and

**Whereas** Von Hippel-Lindau is a rare, genetic, multi-system disorder characterized by the abnormal growth of tumors in certain parts of the body such as the retina, inner ear, adrenal glands, pancreas, brain, kidneys and the spinal cord and,

**Whereas** This genetic condition impacts one out of every 32,000 births, 20 percent of which are new mutations, and 80 percent of which are hereditary; and

**Whereas** Although there is no cure for VHL, with early detection and careful monitoring along with advances made in DNA information, more hope exists today for families with von Hippel-Lindau than ever before; and

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

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 2011, to be

## VON HIPPEL-LINDAU 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, twenty-first day of March, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.



By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts