

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) is a severe adverse reaction to medication or a result of several infections that can affect people of all ages, though most reported cases have involved children; and

Whereas SJS was discovered in 1992 by A.M. Stevens and F.C. Johnson after diagnosing a child who had experienced intense visual and oral difficulties resulting from a drug treatment; and

Whereas Numerous viral infections or any type of medication including anti-convulsants, antibiotics, anti-inflammatory medications, and over the counter drugs can cause SJS; and

Whereas According to the New England Journal of Medicine, over 2 million Americans fall ill and are hospitalized after consuming recommended medications and of the 2 million cases, 140,000 are fatal; and

Whereas Symptoms of SJS may include severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch and risks of SJS can include permanent blindness, dry eye syndrome, photophobia, lung damage, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, permanent loss of nail beds, scarring of the esophagus, and other mucous membranes, arthritis, chronic fatigue syndrome, and if untreated, death; and

Whereas Although there is no identifiable cure for SJS, treatments aimed at relieving painful symptoms are available and include some forms of IV fluid, high calorie formula, and pain medication intake, burn treatments, and dermatology consultations; and

Whereas Early recognition, diagnosis and treatment of SJS cases may lead to the minimization of possible long-term effects; and

Whereas Through public awareness the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to provide an opportunity for all people to learn more about the causes and warning signs of this syndrome, in order for it to be recognized early and treated effectively,

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

STEVENS JOHNSON SYNDROME 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 first day of August, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.



By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH