

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Down Syndrome is a genetic difference occurring in about one of 800 to 1000 births; and

**Whereas** Down Syndrome is caused by an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome, resulting in a person having three copies instead of two copies of this chromosome; and

**Whereas** Most children born with Down Syndrome will experience delay in physical, cognitive and language development and individuals with Down Syndrome vary in their mental and physical abilities; and

**Whereas** Today with loving homes, available therapies, advanced medical care, better early education and greater social acceptance, people with Down Syndrome live full and productive lives; and

**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to ensure that individuals with Down Syndrome are valued, included and live fulfilling lives within the community,

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

## DOWN 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 fiteenth day of September, 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 fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts