

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas A woman receives a diagnosis of breast cancer every two minutes, making the disease the second most frequently diagnosed cancer among women in the United States; and

Whereas In 2010, approximately 5,320 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed among women in Massachusetts; and

Whereas Screening rates are declining and a recent study revealed that among the 1.5 million women studied over the age of 40 with health insurance, less than fifty percent received the recommended annual screening; and

Whereas The efforts of various organizations have made a major contribution to spreading breast cancer awareness to both women and men in all communities in the Commonwealth through outreach, education, and screening programs, and have empowered women with the life-saving message of early detection and the importance of having annual mammograms; and

Whereas Through research and advocacy, significant advances have been made in the fight against breast cancer, including an increase in five-year relative survival rates for localized breast cancer from 74 percent to 98 percent; and

Whereas The 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States today are a testament to courage, as well as to the importance of promoting awareness about breast cancer, providing information, funding research, following recommended screening guidelines, and offering treatment to those who are affected; and

Whereas Throughout the month of October, women are encouraged to make a renewed commitment to following recommended screening guidelines and to make a mammogram appointment,

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

BREAST CANCER 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 twenty-eighth 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".

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