

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Transverse myelitis is a neurological disorder caused by inflammation of parts of the spinal cord. This can cause nervous system scars that interrupt communications between the nerves in the spinal cord and the rest of the body and the exact cause of the disorder is unknown; and

**Whereas** Transverse myelitis can cause myriad of problems such as pain and weakness in the muscles, leading to paralysis, bladder and bowel dysfunction as well as pain and other sensory issues; and

**Whereas** There are approximately 33,000 people across the United States who suffer transverse myelitis and there is no known cure; and

**Whereas** The recovery process for transverse myelitis can take anywhere from two to twelve weeks. However, if there is no improvement in three to six months then complete recovery is unlikely; and

**Whereas** The Commonwealth seeks to raise awareness of transverse myelitis in order to promote an understanding and increase the likelihood of a proper, timely diagnosis and ultimately a cure,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, to be,

## TRANSVERSE MYELITIS AWARENESS DAY

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 fifteenth day of May, in the year two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts