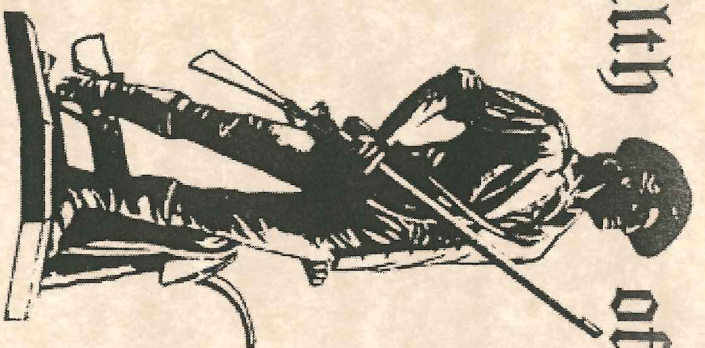


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

- Whereas** Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency is a genetic condition that can cause liver disease in both adults and children; and
- Whereas** According to the Alpha-1 Association, 100,000 people in the United States are affected by Alpha-1. Unfortunately, less than 10% of those people have been properly diagnosed; and
- Whereas** Alpha-1 is commonly misdiagnosed as asthma or smoking-related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and according to a recent study, it takes an average of three doctors and seven years from the time symptoms first appear before proper diagnosis is made; and
- Whereas** Common signs and symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, non-responsive asthma or year-round allergies and recurring respiratory infections; and
- Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the devastating effects of Alpha-1 among all Massachusetts citizens,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 2012, to be,

ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY  
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-fifth day of October, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

