

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Digestive diseases, in general, rank first among illnesses for total economic burden making up about 15 percent of all direct health care costs; and

**Whereas** 20 to 30 percent of North American population experience bothersome upper or lower digestive tract motility disturbances on a chronic basis; and

**Whereas** Occurring in any region of the digestive tract, this family of digestive motility diseases, disorders may produce chronic motor and sensory disturbances characterized by weakened, spastic, or failed propulsion (motility) food through the digestive system; and

**Whereas** Patients, who may appear well, but are nevertheless suffering, struggle against the lack of support from those who do not understand the debilitating nature of their digestive symptoms; and

**Whereas** The Commonwealth and various groups around Massachusetts recognize the importance of educating the healthcare community, patients and the general public regarding the serious nature of digestive motility diseases/disorders,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 2013, to be,

## DIGESTIVE MOTILITY 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 eighteenth day of July, in the year two thousand and thirteen, 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