

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Pain is a major public health problem and is one of the most common reasons Americans seek medical care; and

Whereas, 50 million American adults live with chronic pain and 19.6 million live with high-impact chronic pain as a result of serious illnesses and injuries; and

Whereas, One in four adults and among minorities, almost twice that number suffer from chronic pain in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Pain negatively impacts almost every aspect of a person's life and emotional well-being including the ability to work, sleep and engage in social activities as well as adversely impacts pain sufferers' families and caregivers; and

Whereas, The Institute of Medicine has found that pain costs the United States economy \$560 to \$630 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, lost productivity and other associated indirect costs; and

Whereas, There are several mission driven organizations that are working together in Massachusetts to remove the barriers to effective pain care for all Massachusetts citizens and to raise awareness for the medical treatment of pain,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2021, to be,

PAIN 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 first day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH