



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer is the fastest growing cancer diagnosis in the United States, increasing more than 400 percent in the past 20 years; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer kills one American every thirty-six minutes each and every day; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years. Survival rates are low because it is usually discovered at advanced stages, when treatment outcomes are poor; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer in the United States is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer can be a silent killer, with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and reason to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their medical care professional; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus, resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which can lead to a 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative techniques; and
- WHEREAS: The Esophageal Cancer Action Network is working to improve public awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of esophageal cancer; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer awareness, along with improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies, will enhance the health and wellbeing of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 2014, as:

## ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in the state of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE