

STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability and the third leading cause of death in Minnesota, killing over 2,000 Minnesotans each year. Both the prevalence of strokes and the medical cost of treating them are projected to increase greatly in the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS: Though stroke affects people of all races, genders, and ages, it disproportionately strikes African Americans, who are at higher risk of the disease. The American Stroke Association seeks to empower African Americans to reduce their stroke risk, recognize the warning signs, and respond quickly to a stroke emergency; and

WHEREAS: Stroke affects not only adults, but 1 in every 2,700 live births annually, making strokes the sixth leading cause of death in children. Between 50 and 85 percent of infants and children who have a pediatric stroke will have serious, permanent neurological disabilities, which may require ongoing physical therapy and surgeries; and

WHEREAS: Little is known about the cause, treatment, and prevention of strokes in children, as risk factors, symptoms, prevention efforts, and treatment are often different for adults than they are for children; and

WHEREAS: Warning signs of stroke include sudden numbness or weakness of the face or limbs (especially on one side of the body), confusion, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, severe headache and trouble speaking or understanding others, seeing out of one or both eyes, and walking; and

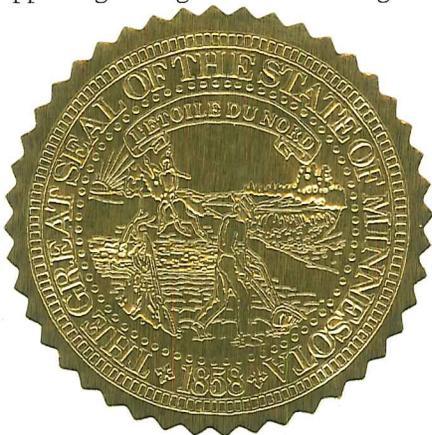
WHEREAS: The signature action for American Stroke Month 2012 is to reach out to a young audience through all music genres and social media activities to educate them about stroke, and to engage them in sharing information with their parents and grandparents; and

WHEREAS: Early diagnosis and treatment greatly improves chances for recovery and prevention of recurrence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim May, 2012 to be:

STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota, and urge citizens to familiarize themselves with the risk factors of stroke and join in supporting the organizations striving to enhance public awareness of stroke in Minnesotans of all ages.



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 1st day of May.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE