



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and
- WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans and approximately 50,000 Minnesotans; and
- WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating and have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and
- WHEREAS: According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 532 drugs and biologics have been approved for treatment of rare diseases, however, millions of Americans still have a rare disease for which there is no approved treatment; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding medical experts, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and
- WHEREAS: While some rare diseases, such as Lou Gehrig's Disease, are relatively well known by the public, many others are not; and patients and their families bear a large share of the burden for raising funds for research; and
- WHEREAS: The National Organization for Rare Disorders is organizing the nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 29, 2016, and patients, their families, medical professionals, researchers, government officials, and companies developing treatments are joining together to focus attention and awareness on rare diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 29, 2016, as:

## RARE DISEASE DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



*Steve Pimm*

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of February.

*Mark Dayton*

GOVERNOR