



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Neuromyelitis optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and
- WHEREAS: NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord, which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and
- WHEREAS: NMO is 80 percent more common in women than men, and occurs in all parts of the world; and
- WHEREAS: NMO can occur at any time, including in children as young as 3 and adults as old as 90, and is most common between the ages of 40-50; and
- WHEREAS: Early diagnosis of NMO is critical, and if untreated, it can lead to devastating and irreversible effects; and
- WHEREAS: While there is no cure for NMO, individuals diagnosed at the earliest stage possible can more quickly begin proper treatment; and
- WHEREAS: It is important to improve public awareness of NMO, so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2017, as:

## NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March.

  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE