



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer is the fastest growing cancer diagnosis in the United States, increasing more than 400% 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; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages, when treatment outcomes are poor; and
- WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer in the U.S. 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 an 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 (ECAN) 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 well-being of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2012 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 9th day of April.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE