

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, INC.
CONCERNING LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES**

RESOLUTION 166

WHEREAS, all six New England states have very high incidences of Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses; and

WHEREAS, cases of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, surveillance has demonstrated a high correlation of the incidence of disease with the abundance of ticks and their geographic distribution; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses is best accomplished by a combination of public awareness, personal protection, and environmental measures; and

WHEREAS, individuals in whom the disease is not diagnosed early and who are not treated adequately can suffer long-term health complications; and

WHEREAS, the difficulty of diagnosing individuals with long-term Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses often impacts patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, laboratory tests for Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness are not definitive and consensus guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of long-term Lyme disease have yet to be developed; and

WHEREAS, some physicians whose practices are devoted to long-term treatment of Lyme disease patients, and who continue to provide treatment they deem medically necessary have noted significant improvement in the condition of many patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. recognizes the seriousness and prevalence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses within New England; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. encourages state and regional surveillance efforts designed to provide a greater understanding of the transmission of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. encourages state and regional prevention initiatives designed to reduce the incidence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. calls for increased federal funding for studies pertaining to the development of improved testing and treatment for Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. encourages the cooperation of its members to investigate and address issues surrounding the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses on a regional basis.

**ADOPTION CERTIFIED BY THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, INC. ON
August 26th 2002.**
Lincoln C. Almond

Governor of Rhode Island

Chairman