

*The State of New Hampshire
By Her Excellency
Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor*

A Proclamation

**LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2015**

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States, with more than 5 million estimated cases in the United States since 1980; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Hampshire had the highest per capita incidence rate reported to the CDC in 2008 and 2012 and the second highest in 2013; and

WHEREAS, According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease in New Hampshire has doubled since 2006; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Lyme disease was the seventh most common nationally notifiable disease according to the CDC's reports; and

WHEREAS, As tick populations spread northward, early detection is often more difficult; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease affects the joints, heart, brain, and other bodily organs and share common symptoms with many other diseases, which can make diagnosis and treatment more difficult; and

WHEREAS, Increased public awareness about proper tick removal, tick checks, use of repellents, early detection, and effective modes of treatment can help prevent the spread of Lyme disease, particularly among children and other high-risk groups; and

WHEREAS, Increased educational awareness of Lyme disease, insurance coverage, and research are needed to ensure adequate treatment and to prevent further expansion of the disease in New Hampshire;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **MAY 2015** as **LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of New Hampshire.

Given this 14th day of May, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-nine.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor