



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, ticks carrying the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease continue to spread across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, both the number of Wisconsinites becoming infected and the risk for others to become infected is increasing; and

WHEREAS, people need to practice personal protection techniques to prevent infections of Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tick Paralysis, Colorado Tick Fever and Relapsing Fever, which are also transmitted by ticks; and

WHEREAS, early indicators of infection, flu-like symptoms and/or enlarged rash, may not appear or may be missed allowing the disease to spread throughout the body and cause serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen, blood vessels, and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, the bacterium can cross the placenta and infect a developing fetus; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other conditions and there is still no reliable laboratory test that can prove who is infected and who is bacteria-free, which often leads to misdiagnosis; and

WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is most easily treated when diagnosed early and is more difficult to treat after the bacteria has spread fully throughout the body, making early detection and treatment of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, there are still few physicians in Wisconsin that are knowledgeable, experienced and willing to make a clinical diagnosis of Lyme Disease and treat patients with relapsing or chronic Lyme Disease, causing many patients to seek medical care out-of-state; and

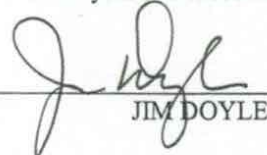
WHEREAS, the best solution to the threat of Lyme Disease is educating people about the seriousness, prevention and the early detection of all tick borne diseases,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin do hereby proclaim the May, 2004 as

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twelfth day of April in the year two thousand four.


JIM DOYLE

