



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Colorado residents, pets and visitors are exposed to tick habitats through work, play, outdoor recreation pursuits or travel, placing them in closer contact with ticks which are carried by wildlife, birds and domestic animals; and*

*WHEREAS, tick bites can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases & conditions such as Lyme disease, Colorado Tick Fever, Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), Tularemia, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever, Tick Paralysis Alpha-gal syndrome and others, resulting in fever, rash and other symptoms which appear like many diseases, making diagnosis difficult; and*

*WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections is continuing to spread rapidly across the United States, with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention new estimated annual case number released in 2021 of 476,000 for Lyme disease alone in the US; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the CDC 2018 study report, tick-borne disease cases more than doubled in the United States in 13 years (2004-2016) and were 77% of all vector borne disease reports; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado reported eight cases of Lyme disease in 2019, the largest annually reported Lyme case number in Colorado history; and*

*WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Colorado are likely underreported, due to limited education and prevention awareness, surveillance activities, and the difficulty of diagnosis; and*

*WHEREAS, when Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are not quickly and accurately diagnosed or treated, may result in severe illness, disability, or death; and may mimic many other diseases, including COVID 19, making diagnosis more difficult; and*

*WHEREAS, support group participation as witnessed by Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association and Colorado Lyme and TBD Support Group, by Colorado patients afflicted by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases continues to grow annually; and*

*WHEREAS, the best protection against tick-borne diseases is awareness, prevention, education, prompt accurate diagnosis, and adequate treatment;*

*THEREFORE, I Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, May 2021, as*

### *LYME & OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH*

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of May, 2021*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor