



State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH
MARCH 2017

WHEREAS, neuromyelitis optica /spectrum disorder, more commonly known as (NMO), is a life-threatening autoimmune disease of the central nervous system; and

WHEREAS, individuals with NMO develop optic neuritis (ON), which causes pain in the eyes, as well as vision loss, and transverse myelitis (TM); leading to weakness, numbness, and sometimes paralysis of the arms and legs, along with many other life-altering side effects; and

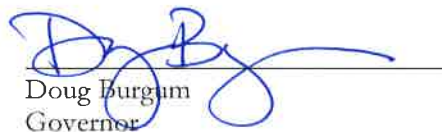
WHEREAS, in the course of the disease, immune system cells and antibodies attack and destroy myelin cells in the optic nerve and the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO has been considered to be a severe variant of multiple sclerosis (MS), however, ongoing research suggests that NMO is a separate disease from MS. NMO differs itself from MS; and

WHEREAS, finding a cure for NMO has the potential to help cure other autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, lupus, and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation is organizing March as the Annual Awareness Month for NMO in perpetuity, and the Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation along with patients, caregivers, scientists, and clinicians will participate in this observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2017, **NMO AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.


Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State