

Proclamation/Declaration of March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month

WHEREAS, I, <NAME>, Governor of South Carolina, am proud to commemorate March 2024 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in the state of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this designation will formalize and expand upon the federal designation 38 years ago of March 1986 as “Hemophilia Awareness Month” and in 2016 when the entirety of the bleeding disorders community came together to encompass all bleeding disorders; and

WHEREAS, the federal Department of Health and Human Services designated March 2016 as National Bleeding Disorders Month; and

WHEREAS, these bleeding disorders, which share the inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma, or menstruation and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal if not treated effectively; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and Hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products;

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month in South Carolina will generate greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand Disease and rare bleeding disorders; which affect millions of individuals around the world;

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Association of South Carolina will recognize March 1, 2024 as von Willebrand Disease Awareness Education Day and March 15, 2024 as Ultra Rare bleeding disorders Awareness Education Day;

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month will bring light to the great scientific achievements in the treatment of bleeding disorders, for which there is no cure, and the greater pursuit of advanced therapies and cures to these disorders.

WHEREAS, the bleeding disorders community’s relationships with policymakers have fostered numerous medical and policy advancements beneficial to all those affected by bleeding disorders and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among individuals with an inheritable bleeding disorder; and

WHEREAS, this Awareness Month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey beyond our community to the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and disability; now

THEREFORE, I, <NAME>, Governor of the State of South Carolina do hereby proclaim the month of March 2024, as: **BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of South Carolina.