

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

*A Proclamation*

**NEW HAMPSHIRE LYME AWARENESS MONTH**  
**MAY, 2013**

**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 2.5 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 Centers for Disease Control in 2008 and, in 2011, New Hampshire's incidence rate was still seventh in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, The number of reported cases of Lyme disease in New Hampshire increased 79 percent from 2007 to 2008, according to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector borne illness in the United States and, in 2011, it was the sixth 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

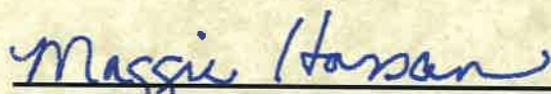
**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease affects the joints, heart, brain, and other bodily organs and mimics numerous other diseases and conditions including ALS, chronic fatigue, depression, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and psychiatric illness which can make diagnosis and treatment more difficult; and

**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 about Lyme disease, insurance coverage, and research are needed to ensure adequate treatment and prevent the 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, 2013** as **NEW HAMPSHIRE LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of New Hampshire.

Given this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-seven.

  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor

