WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is the number one genetic cause of death for infants under two; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy affects approximately one in 11,000 babies, and one in 50 Americans is a genetic carrier; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, taking away the ability to perform basic functions of life, including breathing and swallowing; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy can affect any race, ethnicity, or gender; and

WHEREAS, apart from the physical effects, Spinal Muscular Atrophy can take a powerful emotional toll on patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, there are now FDA-approved treatments for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, both of which need to be administered as soon as possible to be most effective; and

WHEREAS, screening newborns for Spinal Muscular Atrophy is key to preventing the detrimental effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, while these treatments are a major breakthrough, there is a pressing need for continued research to meet the changing needs of the entire SMA patient population

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy has impacted families and their communities throughout the state, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS, finding a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy will require increased public awareness of the disease, the challenges it presents to patients and their families, and the need for increased research and screening;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, __________, GOVERNOR of the State of __________, do hereby proclaim AUGUST 2019 as NATIONAL SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH in _____(state)____ and urge all residents to learn about this ‘common rare disease’ and its impact on the families of _____(state)____.