



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Disability Status Report from Cornell University, nearly 12 percent of Virginians, over one million individuals, have a diagnosed disability; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities have made profound contributions throughout history, but they have not typically been included in history books or studied by children during their school years; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is committed to lifelong learning and the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion for people of all abilities, races, ethnicities, religions, and genders; and

WHEREAS, educating children and the public about the many contributions and achievements of people with disabilities leads to greater awareness of shared history, values, and societal beliefs that can facilitate full inclusion into all facets of community life; and

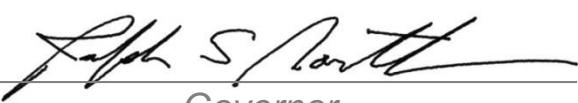
WHEREAS, beginning in 2009, in response to advocacy by high school students with disabilities, the Virginia General Assembly resolved that October be set aside as an annual, month-long observance of the history of the disability rights movement, and commemoration of the achievements of those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Virginians with disabilities have been successful in reducing barriers in education, employment, healthcare, recreation, and civic life by advocating for changes in laws, policies, and practices that discriminate; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth acknowledges these efforts and will continue to implement the vision statement put forth by the youth who advocated for this monthly designation: to create a culture of mutual respect, understanding, and equal opportunities for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize October 2018 as **DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



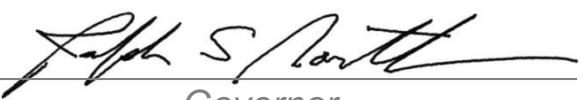

Governor

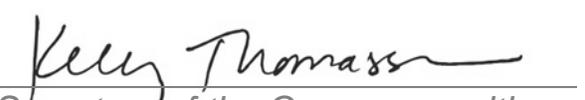

Secretary of the Commonwealth



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth