A Proclamation

Whereas the 191st General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is proud to commemorate March 2019 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in the state of Massachusetts; and

Whereas, this designation will formalize and expand upon the designation 33 years ago of March 1986 as "Hemophilia Awareness Month" by President Ronald Reagan; and

Whereas, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services designated March 2019 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; and

Whereas, This Awareness Month will generate greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand Disease—which alone impacts an estimated one percent of the U.S. population or more than 3.2 million individuals; an estimated 64,000 individuals in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, This Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among individuals with all inheritable bleeding disorders; 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, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March 2019, to be,

BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

By His Excellency

[Signature]
Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

[Signature]
Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

[Signature]
William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts