A Proclamation

Whereas, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare and relatively unknown autoimmune disease that currently has no cure; and

Whereas, NMO attacks the central nervous system and can cause lifetime disability, including permanent blindness and paralysis; and

Whereas, The cause of NMO is still a mystery and there is currently no FDA-approved treatments for NMO; and

Whereas, When mistaken for other diseases, treatments can exacerbate NMO symptoms; and

Whereas, Increasing awareness about NMO has caused NMO diagnoses to rise, as doctors have become more likely to recognize the varying manifestations of the disease; and

Whereas, The NMO community is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about this disease in order to promote research, improved patient care and outcomes, and to ultimately find a cure,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March, 2019, to be,

NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA 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

Charles Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William F. Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts