

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, September has been nationally recognized as Sepsis Awareness Month. Sepsis is the body's life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death; and

Whereas, According to the CDC, sepsis affects 1.7 million Americans and takes 350,000 adult lives every year in the United States - more than from the devastating health crises of prostate cancer, breast cancer and opioid overdose combined; and each year, approximately 75,000 children in the United States develop severe sepsis and approximately 6,800 children die from sepsis; and

Whereas, Communities that have historically lacked access to high-quality healthcare, including some communities of color and individuals experiencing poverty, experience a disproportionate burden of sepsis-related suffering; and

Whereas, Sepsis is the number one cost of hospitalization in the United States, at \$62 billion annually; and, survivors of sepsis have a shortened life expectancy, are more likely to suffer from worse quality of life, and often experience after-effects such as amputations (14,000 per year in the United States) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and

Whereas, Sepsis is one of the leading causes of pregnancy-related mortality in the United States - and the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among high income countries; and the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance is steadily increasing the frequency of cases with sepsis, and making effective sepsis treatment more difficult; and

Whereas, Despite the severe danger and widespread occurrence of this illness, a survey conducted by Sepsis Alliance found that only 15% of U.S. adults can identify the symptoms of sepsis, and the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance is steadily increasing the frequency of cases with sepsis; and

Whereas, The signs of sepsis can be remembered with the mnemonic "TIME," which stands for "Temperature," "Infection," "Mental decline," and "Extremely ill"; awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis along with rapid diagnosis and treatment of sepsis can save lives and improve outcomes for sepsis survivors, as the risk of mortality from sepsis increases for every hour that the treatment is delayed; and

Whereas, Rapid effective treatment of sepsis by healthcare providers, through early recognition and treatment with antibiotics and surgery can reduce the mortality and burden of this condition,

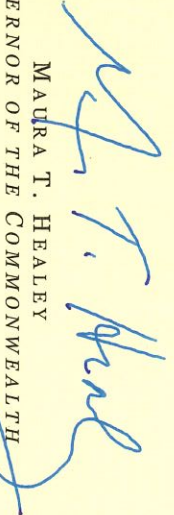
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 2024, to be,


SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH


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

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts