A Proclamation

Whereas, A recent poll commissioned by the Encephalitis Society revealed that eight out of ten U.S. adults do not know what Encephalitis is; and

Whereas, Encephalitis is caused by an infection invading the brain or through the immune system attacking the brain in error; and

Whereas, Symptoms of Encephalitis vary but can include flu-like symptoms or headache, drowsiness, altered behavior, inability to speak or control movement and seizures; and

Whereas, Encephalitis affects half a million children and adults worldwide each year, equivalent to one every minute; and

Whereas, Death rates from Encephalitis are significant while survivors can be left with an acquired brain injury resulting in but not limited to epilepsy, fatigue, cognitive difficulties, problems with memory and personality; and

Whereas, Encephalitis does not discriminate; It can happen to anyone regardless of age, sex or ethnicity; and

Whereas, The sixth annual World Encephalitis Day is led by the Encephalitis Society and will celebrate and honor the millions of people affected by encephalitis while raising global awareness,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2019, to be,

WORLD ENCEPHALITIS DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS

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-first 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 Francis Galvin
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts