

 The Naked Project

www.thenakedproject.org

January 2, 2020

Office of Governor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to request a proclamation be made to declare the month of May 2020 Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Environmental Illness Awareness Month in the State of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I myself am thankfully not affected by this disabling condition, but I know someone whose life has been forever changed by it. Because these requests for proclamations need to be submitted on an annual basis, and for those with MCS, energy to put into such a project can be in short supply, I am happy to assist the community of people living with this condition by submitting this request on their behalf.

Each year there are a handful of states that issue this proclamation declaring the month of May as the official awareness month. This year there is an effort underway to increase that handful to as many of the 50 states as possible, and a group of volunteers across the Nation are already working with their respective Governor’s offices. Throughout the month of May awareness events and online campaigns are held, and the official proclamations from Governors’ offices are always very much appreciated, as a recognition of what so many people are facing.

A number of agencies recognize MCS as a rising health issue and legitimately disabling condition, and since 2011 a group of more than 200 health professionals from around the world and the governments of 26 countries have been petitioning The World Health Organization to add it to the International Classification of Diseases. The month of May is considered the international awareness month for the condition. Surprisingly, even with all this support, the phrase people with this condition hear more than any other is “Wow, I’ve never heard of that!”

I urge you to look into the condition, a couple of excellent resources for research on the topic are; <http://www.chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org/> and <https://www.drsteinemann.com/> as well as the American Academy of Environmental Medicine at <https://www.aaemonline.org/>. Lastly, the following study published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in 2018, addresses the rapid growth and prevalence of MCS, underscoring the urgent need for awareness. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5865484/>.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my request, draft language for the proclamation is included below.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

The State of \_\_\_\_\_

Proclamation

WHEREAS people of all ages in Washington have developed a condition known as Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) or Environmental Illness (EI) as a result of either a single massive exposure or repeated low level exposures to toxic chemicals and other irritants in the environment; and

WHEREAS MCS is a chronic condition for which there is no known cure; symptoms include chronic fatigue, muscle and joint pains, rashes, asthma, headaches, and other respiratory and neurological problems; and

WHEREAS, MCS is recognized by ADA, Social Security Administration, U.S. HUD and other state and national government agencies and commissions which have supported the health and welfare of the chemically injured; and

WHEREAS MCS can result in major financial, employment, housing, health and social consequences for people who have this disability; and

WHEREAS reasonable accommodations and raising awareness can provide opportunities for people with this disability to enjoy access to work, school, public facilities and other settings where they can continue to contribute their professional skills, ideas, creativity, abilities and knowledge; and

WHEREAS people with MCS need the support and cooperation of family, friends, co-workers and society as they manage their condition and adapt to new lifestyles;

NOW THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_, Governor of the State of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim May 2020 as

**Multiple Chemical Sensitivity/Environmental Illness Awareness Month**

in \_\_\_\_ and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this \_\_ day of \_\_\_

Governor \_\_\_\_\_