



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) is a serious, chronic, complex, multisystem disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected patients and causes a substantial reduction of occupational, educational, social and personal activities; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS is a disease that is characterized primarily by pathological exhaustion and post-exertional collapse, which is rapid physical and/or cognitive exhaustion in response to even minimal exertion from activities of daily living or simple mental tasks, with a prolonged recovery period taking days or weeks; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS also causes pain throughout the body, sleep dysfunction, cognitive impairment, immune dysfunction and autonomic and neuroendocrine manifestations; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that ME/CFS affects approximately 1.7 to 3.38 million people in the United States of all races, socioeconomic groups and ages from young children to the elderly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the disease affects more women than men at a rate of four to one, while the gender ratio is almost equal in affected children; and

WHEREAS, ME/CFS-caused low threshold of physical and mental fatigability results in a substantial reduction in pre-illness activity level, causes as many as 60 percent of patients to be bedbound or housebound at least some of the time; and thus accounts for \$18-51 billion of economic costs including \$9-14 billion in medical costs and \$9-37 billion in lost productivity annually;

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is pleased to join all organizations that provide programs, support groups, medical research and medical conferences throughout the State in order to support patients who struggle daily to cope with this life-robbing disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**MAY 2021**

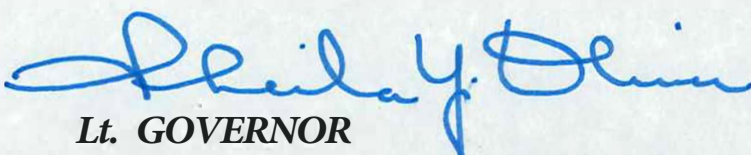
**AS**

**MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC  
FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of May in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR