



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

STROKE SMART COMMONWEALTH

WHEREAS, 1 in 6 people will have a stroke in their lifetime, and 80% of families are affected; and

WHEREAS, stroke is the leading cause of long-term disability, putting a tremendous financial burden on society, individuals, and families; and

WHEREAS, there are life-saving treatments that must be administered within 3-4 hours once symptoms of a stroke begin; and

WHEREAS, stroke onset-to-911 time has not significantly changed for the last 25 years, with the majority of people not knowing how to spot a stroke or the importance of calling 911 immediately; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's public and private schools will be encouraged to make Stroke Smart: Spot-a-Stroke, Stop-a-Stroke, Save-a-Life, part of their training for all students, faculty, and families; and

WHEREAS, all health and safety-focused entities such as hospitals, clinics, medical practices, health departments, pharmacies, fire, EMS, public safety, Social Services and the Departments of Aging, and the Virginia Stroke Systems Task Force will be urged to participate in improving the Commonwealth of Virginia's stroke literacy to educate all employees, volunteers, and associated communities; and

WHEREAS, businesses, civic organizations, senior communities, faith-based organizations, and residents are encouraged to participate and contribute to the Stroke Smart: Spot-a-Stroke, Stop-a-Stroke, Save-a-Life campaign through active citizenship efforts; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to educate everyone in the Commonwealth of Virginia about stroke recognition and the importance of dialing 911 immediately, which will reduce the onset of stroke-to-911 interval to be measured by EMS and local hospital systems; and

WHEREAS, Virginia hopes to serve as a model for other communities, cities, counties, commonwealths, states, and the nation, thereby advancing the vision of a Stroke Smart America;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, proclaim the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA** a **STROKE SMART COMMONWEALTH**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth