

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

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

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia affects one in every 375 African-Americans babies born in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia is a complex genetic disorder characterized by chronic anemia, episodes of debilitating pain and damage to vital organs; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia has a significant impact on the lives of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and it is estimated that more than 3,000 Virginians suffer from this disease and approximately 115,000 carry the sickle cell trait; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of Virginia's Newborn Screening Program in July of 1989, on average 75 newborn babies are identified annually as having been diagnosed with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth remains dedicated to the provision of sickle cell education, screening and medical care for individuals and families living with sickle cell anemia through its support of the Virginia Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Program and Comprehensive Sickle Cell Centers; and

WHEREAS, Virginians demonstrate their support for community-based sickle cell programs through their participation in and affiliation with the Statewide Sickle Cell Chapters of Virginia, Incorporated, who seek to continue to make progress towards a cure for this disease while raising the level of public awareness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize September 2008 as **SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AWARENESS MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kaine in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Katherine F. Hanley in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth