

*WHEREAS, Colorado residents, pets and visitors may have increased exposure to tick habitats through work, play, outdoor recreation pursuits or travel, placing them in closer contact with ticks which are carried by wildlife, birds and domestic animals; and*

*WHEREAS, tick bites can transmit serious and potentially fatal diseases & conditions such as Lyme disease, Colorado Tick Fever, Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), Tularemia, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever, Tick Paralysis Alpha-gal syndrome and others, resulting in fever, rash and other symptoms which appear like many diseases, making diagnosis difficult; and*

*WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections is continuing to spread rapidly across the United States, with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated case number of 336,660 for Lyme disease cases in the US in 2018; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the CDC 2018 study report, tick-borne disease cases more than doubled in the United States in 13 years (2004-2016) and were 77% of all vector borne disease reports; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado reported three cases of Lyme disease in 2018; and*

*WHEREAS, the rate of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in Colorado are likely underreported, due to limited education and prevention awareness, surveillance activities, and the difficulty of diagnosis; and*

*WHEREAS, when Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, may result in severe illness, disability, or in some cases death; and may mimic many other diseases making diagnosis more difficult; and*

*WHEREAS, support group participation as witnessed by Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association and Colorado Lyme and TBD Support Group, by Colorado patients afflicted by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases continues to grow annually; and*

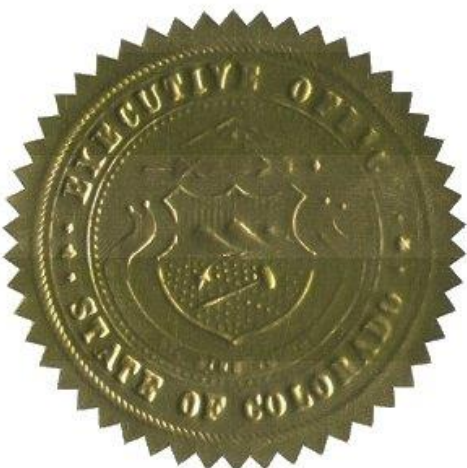
*WHEREAS, the best protection against tick-borne diseases is awareness, prevention, education, prompt diagnosis, and adequate treatment.*

*Therefore, I Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, May 2020, as*

## ***LYME & OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH***

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of May, 2020*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis  
Governor*