



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, 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 rise across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 476,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year; 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 eight human cases of Lyme disease in 2019, the largest annually reported case number in CO history; and

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

WHEREAS, when Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are not quickly or accurately diagnosed and treated they may result in severe illness, chronic disabling symptoms, or death; and

WHEREAS, Lyme and other tick-borne diseases may mimic many others, including acute and long-haul COVID 19, making diagnosis more difficult; and

WHEREAS, patient support group participation continues to grow annually; and

WHEREAS, the best protection against Lyme and other tick-borne diseases/conditions includes better awareness, prevention, education, prompt and accurate diagnosis, and early and adequate treatment;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023, as

LYME & OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES/CONDITIONS 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, 2023



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

Jared Polis
Governor