



Proclamation

"Declaring Lyme & Other Tick-Borne Diseases/Conditions Awareness Month"

May 2026

WHEREAS, Colorado residents, pets, and visitors are increasingly exposed to tick habitats through work, play, outdoor recreation, and travel, putting them at higher risk of contact with ticks carried by wildlife and domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, tick bites can transmit serious and potentially life-threatening diseases—including Lyme disease, Colorado Tick Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever, Tick Paralysis, and Alpha-gal syndrome, often causing fever, rash, pain, and other symptoms that mimic many viral illnesses, making diagnosis challenging; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that tick-borne disease cases in the United States more than doubled between 2004 and 2016, accounting for 77 percent of all reported vector-borne diseases, and that Lyme disease can cause serious, life-altering effects including transmission during pregnancy and chronic, often debilitating symptoms such as severe fatigue, pain, cognitive impairment, and memory problems that can dramatically disrupt daily life and persist or recur with varying intensity among individuals; and

WHEREAS, national public health efforts under the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are intensifying to fight Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses, including a December 15, 2025 HHS roundtable, which brought together patients, clinicians, researchers, lawmakers, and advocates to advance diagnostics, patient-centered care, research, and public-private partnerships like the LymeX Innovation Accelerator to develop next-generation detection tools; and

WHEREAS, participants at the HHS roundtable emphasized urgent needs for improved diagnostics, coordinated care, expanded research into tick-borne disease mechanisms, and inclusive, patient-centered approaches to addressing gaps in knowledge, surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and access to care; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases in Colorado may be underreported due to limited surveillance, diagnostic challenges, and low public awareness, and delays in diagnosis or treatment can result in severe illness, chronic disability, or even death; and

WHEREAS, prevention, awareness, education, timely evaluation after suspected exposure, and early, accurate treatment are the most effective tools to protect individuals, families, and communities from tick-borne illnesses.

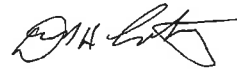
THEREFORE, the County Commissioners of Chaffee County, do hereby proclaim **May 2026** as **LYME & OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH**, and urge all residents, health care providers, educators, public health partners, and communities to observe this month with actions, education, and outreach that raise awareness, promote prevention, and protect the health and well-being of all residents and visitors.



Gina Lucrezi, Chair



P.T. Wood



David Armstrong