



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:

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month is an inclusive initiative recognizing the unique health needs of African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and other minority populations in order to help local communities eliminate the disproportionate incidence of premature death and preventable illness among these populations; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, April has been observed across the country as National Minority Health Month; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the Virginia Department of Health strives to identify health inequities affecting minority populations and promote equitable opportunities to resolve them; and

WHEREAS, inequities in health begin before birth as a result of an individual's race/ethnicity, family income, place of residence, and ability to access affordable health care and lead to unavailable or unnecessary health care, social and economic costs, and reduced lifespan and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, despite improvements in health care for minority Virginians, significant disparities and inequities persist, such as enduring poverty and limited educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity is focused on identifying community strategies and actions that increase health opportunities for all people, no matter their race or where they reside in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Bridging Health Equity Across Communities," raises awareness about efforts across health, education, justice, housing, transportation, and employment sectors to address the social determinants of health;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize April 2017 as **VIRGINIA MINORITY HEALTH MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA** and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terence R. McAuliffe".

GovernorA handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kelly Thomas".

Secretary of the Commonwealth