



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota is regarded as one of the healthiest states in the nation, yet has some of the largest health disparities for people of color, people living in rural areas, low-income households, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ), and members of other marginalized communities; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota physicians recognize that factors such as health care financing, non-diverse health care workforces, living wages, housing, and public transportation impact health equity; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota physicians further recognize that racial and ethnic health disparities also are a consequence of the structural and institutional racism that exists in our hospitals and health care systems; and
- WHEREAS: Racism can impact health both directly and indirectly, leading to adverse effects in both mental and physical health incomes; and
- WHEREAS: African American and American Indian babies die in the first year of life at twice the rate of white babies; African American and Hispanic/Latino women are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer; and students who identify as LGBTQ are more likely than their heterosexual peers to be bullied and commit suicide—statistics that represent a fraction of the health disparities faced by some of Minnesota's most vulnerable communities; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota recognizes the need to address and close gaps in health disparities in order to lower long-term costs and improve quality for all; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota physicians believe that everyone should have an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health and will continue to advocate for health equity on behalf of all patients; and
- WHEREAS: Efforts aimed at addressing Minnesota's health disparities and the various social factors that contribute to poor health outcomes first requires greater public understanding and awareness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2018, as:

HEALTH EQUITY MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21st day of December.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE