STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating and have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS: While more than 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnostic delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS: While some rare diseases, such as Lou Gehrig's Disease, are relatively well known by the public, many others are not; patients and their families bear a large share of the burden when it comes to raising funds for research; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of residents of Minnesota are among those affected by rare diseases and nearly 1 in 10 Americans have rare diseases; and

WHEREAS: The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and the University of Minnesota are organizing observances of Rare Disease Day on February 23 and 28, 2018; and
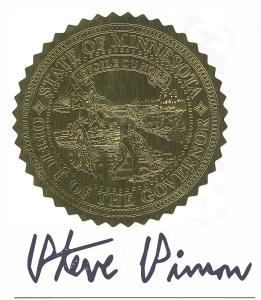
WHEREAS: Thousands patients, their families, medical professionals, researchers, government officials, and companies developing treatments are joining together to focus attention and awareness on rare diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, February 28, 2018, as:

RARE DISEASE DAY

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 11th day of January.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE