



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an involuntary neurological disorder with genetic predisposition and childhood onset that typically affects a child between 5 to 10 years of age. TS is generally defined by "tics," which are repetitive involuntary body movements and/or vocal outbursts such as shouting out swear words (coprolalia) or repeating the words of other people (echolalia); and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated prevalence report found 3 out of every 1000 U.S. children aged 6-17 years had been diagnosed with TS. The study "Prevalence of Diagnosed Tourette Syndrome in Children in the United States, 2007" found that TS is three times more common in boys than girls and is approximately twice as common in children aged 12-17 years as those aged 6-12 years; and

WHEREAS, among children diagnosed with TS, about 79% of the school-age population also has been diagnosed with at least one additional mental health, behavioral or developmental condition, especially attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. People with TS also have a 36% higher rate of depression, anxiety, learning disabilities and problems with peer relations; and

WHEREAS, even though there is no known cure for TS, having an estimate of the number of children who are diagnosed with TS is a first step toward understanding the overall impact of this condition on the population. Further research will examine differences in access to healthcare for children with TS in different population groups, quality of life, long term outcomes and strategies for reducing the impact of conditions associated with TS; and

WHEREAS, managing tics and creating a supportive environment can enable children and adults with TS to lead healthy and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the stigma surrounding those living with TS increases the need to expand public knowledge of the disorder through awareness, advocacy and educational efforts;

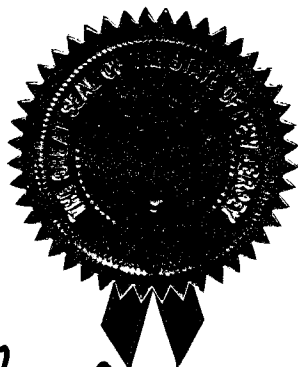
NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 15, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 15, 2014

AS

TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



Kim Guadagno
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this second day of May in the year two thousand fourteen, the two hundred thirty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

Chris Christie
GOVERNOR