WHEREAS, stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 133,000 each year and [X] citizens of [STATE] each year; and

WHEREAS, projections show that by 2030, an additional 3.4 million U.S. adults 18 and older will have had a stroke, a 20.5% increase in prevalence from 2012, with the highest increase (29%) projected for Hispanic men; and

WHEREAS, the direct medical costs for treating stroke are expected to almost triple, from 71.6 billion to 184.1 billion by 2030; and

WHEREAS, recent guidelines redefined High Blood Pressure as a reading of 130/80, nearly half of all adults in the U.S. have High Blood Pressure, the most common controllable cause of stroke; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 stroke survivors have a second stroke, second strokes are largely preventable with a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the F.A.S.T. warning signs and symptoms of stroke include face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty and time to call 9-1-1; and beyond F.A.S.T., additional stroke warning signs and symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, new and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effect of strokes when administered in the early hours; and

WHEREAS, during American Stroke Month in May, and year-round, the American Stroke Association’s Together to End Stroke® initiative encourages Americans to manage their blood pressure, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign of a stroke; and

WHEREAS, much more research and education is needed to help Americans prevent, treat and beat stroke;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Governor [NAME], do hereby proclaim May 2018 to be

AMERICAN STROKE MONTH

in [STATE] and urge all the citizens of our state to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, recognize the warning signs and symptoms, and on first sign of a stroke dial 9-1-1 immediately so that we might begin to reduce the devastating effects of stroke on our population.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of [STATE] this _____ day of May 2018.

__________________________________________________________
Governor [NAME]