



2016 CITY/STATE PROCLAMATION

Encourage public officials in your local community or state to issue the following proclamation during Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month.



[2016 Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month Proclamation Template](#)

2016 Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, rheumatic diseases are chronic, progressive, painful conditions and the leading cause of disability in the United States;

WHEREAS, rheumatic diseases now affect nearly one in four Americans and are expected to affect an estimated 78 million Americans by the year 2040;

WHEREAS, 300,000 children live with some form of rheumatic disease;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the economic burden of rheumatic disease is at least \$128 billion annually, including more than \$80 billion in medical expenditures and \$47 billion in annual indirect costs such as lost earnings;

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of rheumatic disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause of these diseases is still unknown;

WHEREAS, the symptoms of rheumatic diseases vary depending on the individual and the disease, but may include joint or muscle pain, inflammation, swelling, redness or stiffness, eye irritation and inflammation, general fatigue, malaise, and fevers, hair loss, dry eyes or mouth, chest pain, seizures, or stroke;

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for rheumatic diseases, but medical research breakthroughs have led to treatments and therapies that can dramatically improve the quality of life for those living with rheumatic diseases;

WHEREAS, rheumatologists, researchers, patients, caregivers, and other advocates are working to improve the quality of life for people living with rheumatic diseases;

WHEREAS, healthcare policies, research, education, and community support services are needed to ensure patients receive timely, affordable, safe and effective treatments and have access to trained rheumatologists who can provide quality care to those living with these diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, **MAYOR/GOVERNOR** of the City/State of _____, do hereby proclaim September as Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month in _____.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the City of _____, on this day of twenty-sixteen, and to which I have caused the Seal of the City/State to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.

Mayor/Governor/Council

Attest:

