

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States and in Massachusetts in 2021, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 25,812 new lung cancer cases in Massachusetts and 15,765 deaths between 2014 and 2018; and

Whereas, The five-year survival rate for localized lung cancer was about 59% in 2013, yet only a small percentage of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

Whereas, Screening for lung cancer in high-risk individuals by using low-dose computed tomography can lead to earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, potentially reducing the mortality by 20% when compared with screening by chest x-ray; and

Whereas, Additional funding for lung cancer research is critical, including research to promote early diagnosis, screening, and treatment, and to eliminate disparities for women and other groups affected by lung cancer; and

Whereas, Incidence of lung cancer in men is decreasing at a greater rate than it is in women. Each year, more women die from lung cancer than from breast cancer, and based on current projections, more women than men will die from lung cancer by 2035; and

Whereas, African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are evident among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

Whereas, Lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000 to 26,000 deaths in the US every year. More than 50% of lung cancer diagnoses among those who have never smoked are in women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in those who have never smoked is increasing; and

Whereas, Organizations working in Massachusetts are committed to educating the public about lung cancer and working to increase lung cancer screening rates, promote research, and eliminate disparities,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November, 2021, to be,

LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of November, in the year two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts