**ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

**IN THE STATE OF [State] - APRIL 2024**

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** is the fastest increasing cancer among American men; and
**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** is one of the fastest growing cancer diagnoses among all Americans, increasing more than 700% in recent decades; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** kills one American every 36 minutes each and every day; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** in the U.S. is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the heartburn, cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, chest pain or other symptoms they suffer can be signs of GERD and are reasons to discuss screening for Esophageal Cancer with their health care provider; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** can develop from GERD when fluids from the stomach splash into the esophagus, creating cellular change resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett’s Esophagus which can lead to a 30-fold increase in a patient’s risk of developing Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett’s Esophagus, which can be eliminated with curative outpatient techniques; and

**WHEREAS The ESOPHAGEAL CANCER ACTION NETWORK, ECAN,** is working to improve public awareness throughout the nation of the link between Heartburn and Cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER** awareness along with improvements in prevention. early detection and treatment strategies will enhance the health and well–being of citizens of the State of [State] and all Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Honorable [First and Last Name of Governor], Governor of the Great State of [State] does hereby proclaim
 **April 2024 Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in [State].**