

State of Maine



**WHEREAS**, October 9-15 marks Plasma Awareness Week with observances throughout the United States designed to raise awareness of the importance of plasma donation and its impact on patients with rare diseases, recognize the contributions of plasma donors to saving and improving lives, and to increase understanding about life-saving plasma protein therapies and the conditions they treat; and

**WHEREAS**, plasma-derived and recombinant therapies, collectively known as plasma protein therapies are unique, biological products for which no substitutes exist, save and improve lives of individuals throughout Maine and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, plasma protein therapies are used to treat many conditions including hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, primary immune deficiencies, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, hereditary angioedema, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, and Rh negative pregnancies; and

**WHEREAS**, these therapies substantially increase quality of life, extend life expectancy and improve patient outcomes for an estimated 500 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, approximately 1,800 pregnant women in Maine receive a plasma protein therapy to protect mother and baby from complications due to incompatible blood types; and

**WHEREAS**, there is one plasma donation center in Maine certified under the International Quality Plasma Program where healthy and committed donors provide plasma that is used to manufacture high-impact, life-saving therapies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE**, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2016 as

**PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this Twenty-fifth day of August Two Thousand Sixteen

*Paul R. LePage*  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

*Matthew Dunlap*  
Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY