



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

Declaration

Whereas, a rare disease is defined in the United States as a disorder that affects fewer than 200,000 Americans at any given time;

Whereas, many of the patients suffering from a rare disease are children younger than the age of 18;

Whereas, about 80% of the approximately 7,000 rare diseases are linked to genetic origins while the remaining 20% are caused by either bacterial or viral infections, allergies and environmental causes, or unknown causes;

Whereas, patients' quality of life is affected negatively by the lack or loss of autonomy due to the chronic, progressive, degenerative, and frequently life-threatening aspects of these diseases;

Whereas, the joint efforts of many rare disease patient organizations are to increase awareness among the general public, health care providers, researchers, and policy makers about the detrimental effects of rare diseases on patients' lives; and,

Whereas, we wish to lend support to the Utah residents who live with a rare disease and their families, as well as to organizations and individuals who work tirelessly in our state to provide further education and research about rare diseases;

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare Feb. 28, 2023, as

Rare Disease Day in Utah

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox".

Spencer J. Cox
Governor