

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
Proclamation

- WHEREAS, ticks carrying the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme Borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme Disease, continue to spread across Illinois; and
- WHEREAS, the number of reported cases of Lyme Disease among residents of Illinois has steadily increased, yet the Centers for Disease Control estimates that on average there are 10 missed cases for every case reported; and
- WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other conditions and no reliable laboratory test can prove who is infected or bacteria-free, which often leads to misdiagnosis; and
- WHEREAS, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptoms characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes; and
- WHEREAS, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme Disease can suffer from serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen, blood vessels and kidneys. For this reason it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate treatment; and
- WHEREAS, the best solution to the threat of Lyme Disease is to educate people about the seriousness of the illness and the need to practice personal prevention techniques when engaging in outdoor activities, such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellants and proper tick removal; and
- WHEREAS, in an effort to raise awareness about Lyme Disease, Illinois is honored to take part in the annual observance of Lyme Disease Awareness Month this May:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as **LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois to draw attention to this spreading problem and the importance of early detection and treatment.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* THIRD *day of* APRIL *, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
EIGHT *, and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and* NINETIETH

*Rod R. Blagojevich*

GOVERNOR