



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder in which an individual experiences seizures caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain. These seizures are mostly unpredictable with over 40 different types and can range in severity from a momentary loss of awareness, to violent, unconscious, uncontrolled jerking movements. Though many remain unaware of this disorder, it is not all that rare as it affects 400,000 Texans of all ages.

There are many possible contributing causes to epilepsy including illness, brain injury, and abnormal brain development, however, in the majority of cases, the cause is unknown. While epilepsy cannot currently be cured, many of those diagnosed can control seizures with modern medicine and surgical techniques. Nevertheless, people who experience seizures continue to encounter difficulty in the workplace, deal with social stigmatization, and, in some cases, discrimination. Additionally, those who experience seizures may not receive appropriate first aid during a seizure as the public is often unable to recognize common seizure types.

The month of November is dedicated to promoting public awareness of epilepsy, highlighting the need for further research, and removing the stigma around those who experience seizures. It is vital that we recognize the seriousness of this disorder, promote education on how to assist individuals experiencing seizures, and ensure individuals with epilepsy are treated with respect.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about epilepsy and the individuals and families affected by epilepsy and to support further research toward a cure. Through empathy, education and action, we can work toward a better future for our fellow Texans who experience seizures.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 2017 to be

Epilepsy Awareness Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 30th day of October, 2017.


Governor of Texas