

# State of Iowa

## Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

### PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** LATEX ALLERGY IS AN ALLERGY TO PROTEINS IN NATURAL RUBBER LATEX WHICH CAN BE LIFE-THREATENING; AND,
- WHEREAS,** LATEX ALLERGY AFFECTS AN ESTIMATED 18-68% OF PEOPLE WITH SPINA BIFIDA, 3-8% OF DENTAL CARE WORKERS, 34% OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE UNDERGONE THREE OR MORE SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 5-17% OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS, 11% OF RUBBER INDUSTRY WORKERS, 6-8% OF PEOPLE WITH ATOPIC (ALLERGIC) CONDITIONS, AND 6.4% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION; AND,
- WHEREAS,** E.L.A.S.T.I.C. ACTIVELY SEEKS TO STOP NEEDLESS SENSITIZATION, CREATE SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS, ENCOURAGE HEALTH AWARENESS AND WELL-BEING, HELP THOSE WITH LATEX ALLERGY ESCAPE THE "VICTIM" MENTALITY AND LEARN HOW TO LIVE AND ENJOY LIFE, AND WORK TO REMOVE POWDERED, HIGH ALLERGEN NATURAL RUBBER LATEX GLOVES FROM ALL ENVIRONMENTS; AND,
- WHEREAS,** MORE OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE THAT NATURAL RUBBER LATEX CAN CAUSE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTIONS AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS; AND,
- WHEREAS,** THERE ARE ONLY A FEW MEDICAL, DENTAL FACILITIES WHERE A PERSON WITH LATEX ALLERGY CAN SAFELY ENTER; AND,
- WHEREAS,** LATEX ALLERGY CAUSES JOB LOSS, QUALITY OF LIFE REDUCTION, NEGATIVE LIFESTYLE CHANGES, ISOLATION, ESCALATING HEALTH CARE COSTS, AND INCREASED FINANCIAL BURDEN; AND,
- WHEREAS,** AN INCREASE IN THE AWARENESS OF LATEX ALLERGY MAY STIMULATE THE INTEREST AND CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHICH MAY LEAD TO INCREASED RESEARCH INTO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH LATEX ALLERGY AND PREVENTION OF LATEX ALLERGY:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 7-13, 2001, AS

### LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

IN IOWA, AND CALL UPON THE PEOPLE OF IOWA TO OBSERVE THIS WEEK WITH APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE

YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND ONE.

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
GOVERNOR