

A 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 18-73 percent of people with spina bifida, 38 percent of dental care workers, 34 percent of children who have undergone three or more surgical procedures, 10-21 percent of health care workers, 11 percent of rubber industry workers, 6.8 percent of people with allergic conditions and 6.4 percent of the general population; and

WHEREAS, the Allergy to Latex Education and Resource Team (A.L.E.R.T.), Inc. actively seeks to stop needless sensitization, creates safe and healthy environments, encourages health awareness and well-being, helps those with latex allergy escape the victim mentality and learn how to live and enjoy life; and

WHEREAS, our citizens should recognize natural rubber latex can cause potentially serious allergic reactions and medical problems; and

WHEREAS, there are only a few medical and 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 could lead to increased research into the needs of individuals with latex allergy and prevention of latex allergy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 3-9, 2004 as

LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fifteenth day of July in the year two thousand four.

JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State