



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## A Proclamation

Whereas Treacher-Collins Syndrome (TCS) is a genetic birth disorder that affects approximately one in every 50,000 births; and

Whereas Its symptoms can be mild to severe (life threatening) at birth and directly impact facial and cranial bone and tissue development; and

Whereas Children can be born without ears, cheekbones, jaws, viable airways, or any combinations of these and/or other facial complications that result either directly or indirectly from these abnormalities; and

Whereas There is no cure for TCS, children often live with a tracheotomy and usually a feeding tube from the moment they are born. While some devices, such as Baha hearing Aids, are available, corrective/constructive surgery is the only permanent means of improving quality of life and takes place, if at all, as the child grows and develops; and

Whereas Early intervention programs, special educational needs and counseling are also prescribed methods of care,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, to be,

## TREACHER-COLLINS SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Nineteenth Day of August, in the year two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCE

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts