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Dyslexia Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities; and

WHEREAS, these difficulties typically are caused by a deficit in the phonological component of language that is unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and to the provision of effective classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Dyslexia, which occurs on a continuum of severity, affecting between 10 and 20 percent of the population according to the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 56,729 Virginia students in grades from kindergarten through post graduate studies learn differently; and

WHEREAS, research shows significant improvements in reading comprehension, content acquisition, reading accuracy, confidence and reading rates for students with Dyslexia who used accessible materials, such as audio books, in their education; and

WHEREAS, Virginia students, parents, teachers and residents in general will benefit from increased awareness of the nature of Dyslexia, the early warning signs of Dyslexia, and the value of accessible education materials and multisensory language interventions for students with Dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, greater recognition and understanding are necessary to ensure that individuals with Dyslexia living in Virginia, like all other Americans with Dyslexia are accurately identified and provided with appropriate services so that they might lead maximally productive lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October, 2011, as **DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

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