



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

TAY-SACHS DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Tay-Sachs is a rare, inherited disorder that causes progressive destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system) due to insufficient activity of an enzyme called beta-hexosaminidase A; and

WHEREAS, this disease is always fatal in children; and

WHEREAS, as the disease progresses, symptoms include seizures, blindness, spasticity, eventual total incapacitation, and death, usually before four years of age; and

WHEREAS, the disorder was first identified by British ophthalmologist Warren Tay in 1881 and American neurologist Bernard Sachs in 1887; and

WHEREAS, Tay-Sachs is an autosomal recessive disorder and both parents must carry the mutated gene in order to have an affected child. When both parents are carriers, there is a 25 percent chance with each pregnancy that the child will be affected with Tay-Sachs disease; and

WHEREAS, there is no known treatment for Tay-Sachs disease; and

WHEREAS, Tay-Sachs most often appears in families with no prior history of the disease and a simple blood test can distinguish Tay-Sachs carriers from non-carriers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 2008 as *Tay-Sachs Disease Awareness Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 15th day of February, in the year two thousand eight.




Governor