

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is an incurable brain disorder that causes individuals to have recurring seizures and it is major national health problem with an estimated 3.4 million people in the United States with the disorder, approximately 65,000 of them residing in the West Central Florida area; and

**WHEREAS**, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity or sensory phenomena, and is a sign that certain brains cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses; and

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is a common and diverse set of chronic neurological disorders characterized by seizures, and although in many of the cases the cause is unknown, it often can be attributed to brain tumor, lack of oxygen at birth, injury to the brain, infection or brain hemorrhage; and

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is the third most common neurological condition, and one in twenty-six people in the United States will develop the disorder in their lifetime due to abnormal brain development, illness, brain injury, or from an unknown cause; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of widespread understanding and knowledge about epilepsy often causes people, especially children and youth, to fear, isolate, tease and even bully their peers who are affected with epilepsy or other seizure disorders, so it is imperative that communities become educated to enhance inclusion and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, November has been designation as Epilepsy Awareness Month since 1969, and its mission is to increase community awareness and support those with epilepsy and their families in order to improve their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Epilepsy Services Foundation, Inc.* was established in 1973 in Tampa, Florida, and its mission is to create a better future and environment for persons affected by epilepsy living in West Central Florida region, especially children, teens and young adults, and their families, and during Epilepsy Awareness Month, the organization is hosting several awareness and educational events including *Epilepsy Education Day* at BioSpine Institute, several fundraisers, participation in the Great American Teach-In, and a month-long email and social media campaign.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 2019 as

## **“EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking Florida Services Foundation and healthcare professionals for their efforts to improve the lives of persons affected by epilepsy.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor