



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

**GREETINGS:**

It is my distinct honor to join with the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to raise awareness about pain, promote education and understanding of the condition, and give support to patients and their families by recognizing September as "Pain Awareness Month."

Chronic pain is associated with significant suffering, including compromise of physical and psychosocial functioning, such as depression and anxiety. Chronic pain also leads to lost or compromised workdays that equate to an estimated \$50 to \$70 billion per year in the United States.

As many as than 40% of postoperative patients report inadequate pain relief, and 15-25% of adults outside of hospitals and other medical settings suffer from chronic pain at any given time, a figure that increases to 50% in adults over age 65 years. Up to 70% of people who have cancer suffer from pain caused by the disease or its treatment, and people who have advanced cancer describe their pain as moderate to severe 40-50% of the time, and as very severe 25-35% of the time.

The importance of education is greater than ever. It is critical that we remain vigilant in our advocacy and support, advancing research and treatments as well as giving comfort to those affected by this condition. Our commitment to this cause will forever change the future for countless citizens, and I urge everybody to do their part.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I offer my gratitude to all the individuals who strive to reduce and/or eliminate the barriers to effective pain therapy and improve the lives of all our citizens. It is an honor to join with you in recognition of Pain Awareness Month. I give my encouragement as you continue to lead a critical mission of health and hope, this month and always.



*Edward G. Rendell*

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor  
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