**HOME CARE, PALLIATIVE CARE and HOSPICE MONTH**

**Draft Proclamation for your local communities!**

**WHEREAS,** home care, palliative care, and hospice services provide for an individual’s health and social needs across the continuum of life—serving expectant mothers, infants, children, adults, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly, and providing love, comfort and support at the end of life; and

**WHEREAS,** these high-quality care services are delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled professionals and trained volunteers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, home health aides, spiritual care providers and more; and

**WHEREAS,** each year, hospice saves Medicare more than $2 billion while providing solutions for physicians care to patients and comfort to families; research indicates that timely access to hospice and palliative care can decrease hospitalizations and Emergency Room visits, and increase quality of life for patients and family caregivers; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina, home care and hospice agencies provided services to more than 500,000 North Carolinians in their homes last year; and

**WHEREAS,** home care, palliative care, and hospice enable North Carolina citizens to receive quality health and social services in their own home, surrounded by family and friends; these services support families by easing the caregiver burden and helping to avoid the costs of institutional care; and

**WHEREAS,** home care, palliative care, and hospice build upon a strong tradition of compassion, and strive to keep families together while preserving an individual’s independence and dignity in the comfort of his or her home; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of North Carolina encourages citizens to learn more about options of care, and to share their wishes with family, loved ones, and health care professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I do hereby proclaim November [enter year] as “**HOME CARE, PALLIATIVE CARE and HOSPICE MONTH**” in North Carolina and commend this observance to our citizens.