



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately half a million *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) infections occur per year that require hospital treatment or affect those already hospitalized; and

*WHEREAS*, approximately 29,000 patients die within thirty days of their initial diagnosis of *C. diff* of which about 15,000 deaths were estimated to be directly attributable to *C. diff* infection; and

*WHEREAS*, studies indicate that *C. diff* has become the most common microbial cause of healthcare-associated infections in U.S. hospitals and costs up to \$4.8 billion each year in excess health care costs for acute care facilities alone; and

*WHEREAS*, one out of every five patients with a healthcare-associated *C. diff* infection experiences a recurrence of the infection and one out of every nine patients aged 65 or older with a healthcare-associated *C. diff* infection died within 30 days of diagnosis; and

*WHEREAS*, health care facilities employ dedicated professionals who advocate for improving healthcare and promoting patient and staff safety in order to minimize and prevent *C. diff*; and

*WHEREAS*, improved healthcare practices, such as thorough hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning can significantly reduce the risk and spread of *C. diff* infections; and

*WHEREAS*, ensuring the education of healthcare workers on proper infection prevention techniques is proven to reduce all types of healthcare associated infections:

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 2017, as

# Clostridium Difficile Infection Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2017.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor