

PROCLAMATION

BY

MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

DESIGNATING MARCH, 2002

AS

"PAIN AWARENESS MONTH"

IN BALTIMORE

WHEREAS, the citizens of Baltimore are proud to join with the Maryland Pain Initiative, the American Pain Foundation, and the American Cancer Society, on the occasion of the recognition of March as Pain Awareness Month in Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems, it is our silent epidemic and more than 50 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders, and each year nearly 25 million people suffer with acute pain; and

WHEREAS, although medical knowledge and technology is available to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated and the majority of healthcare professionals are still unaware of how to effectively treat pain and most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little relief or no relief; and

WHEREAS, people who suffer from chronic pain are too often stigmatized and marginalized and the patients and many doctors fear using strong painkillers because they wrongly believe them to be addictive but, the fact is that when prescribed by a doctor, and taken as directed, they are safe, effective, and rarely lead to addiction; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the citizens of Baltimore honor and salute the members and participants of the 21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society on the recognition of March as Pain Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, do hereby proclaim MARCH 2002 as "PAIN AWARENESS MONTH" IN BALTIMORE, and do urge all citizens to join in this celebration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore to be affixed this first day of March, two thousand two.



Mayor

