WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious, debilitating, and have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS: While more than 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of Minnesotans are among those affected by rare diseases; and

WHEREAS: That National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and the University of Minnesota are organizing observances of Rare Disease Day on February 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of patients, their families, medical professionals, researchers, government officials, and companies developing treatments are joining together to focus attention and awareness on rare diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, February 28, 2020, as:

RARE DISEASE DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 30th day of January.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE