



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KELLI LINVILLE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) 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 and debilitating conditions that 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 individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS residents of Bellingham are among those affected by rare diseases because nearly one in 10 Americans have rare diseases; and

NOW THEREFORE, DO I, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim February 29, 2016, to be

RARE DISEASE DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington and welcome the community to join the National Organization for Rare Diseases (NORD) in the observance of this day.



Signed this 19th day of January, 2016

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham