



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis Syndrome, another form of SJS, are severe adverse drug reactions to medications; and,*

*WHEREAS, adverse drug reactions (ADR's) account for approximately 140,000 deaths per year in the United States alone, making drug reactions one of the leading causes of death in the U.S.; and,*

*WHEREAS, SJS is one of the most debilitating ADR's. Besides death, it can cause severe skin and oral lesions, permanent blindness, lung damage and other life-long complications; and,*

*WHEREAS, almost any medication, including over-the-counter drugs, can cause SJS, and although it afflicts people of all ages, a large number of its victims are children; and,*

*WHEREAS, symptoms of SJS include: rash or red splotches on skin, persistent fever, facial blisters*



and flu-like symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, affected persons must stop taking the offending drug immediately and contact a physician; and,

WHEREAS, recognition of the early symptoms of SJS and prompt medical attention are the best ways to minimize the possible long-term effects SJS may cause:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 2011 as **STEVENS JOHNSON SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to educate themselves on the symptoms and treatment of this devastating problem.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this FIRST day of JULY, in

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and ELEVEN, and of the State of Illinois

the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

*Dee White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR