County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-36

Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS) are groups of disorders that affect the body's connective tissues including skin, joints, blood vessels, gut, and many other organs and tissues; and

WHEREAS, EDS affects more than one in 5,000 people, both males and females of every age and race. It is a chronic, lifelong condition; and
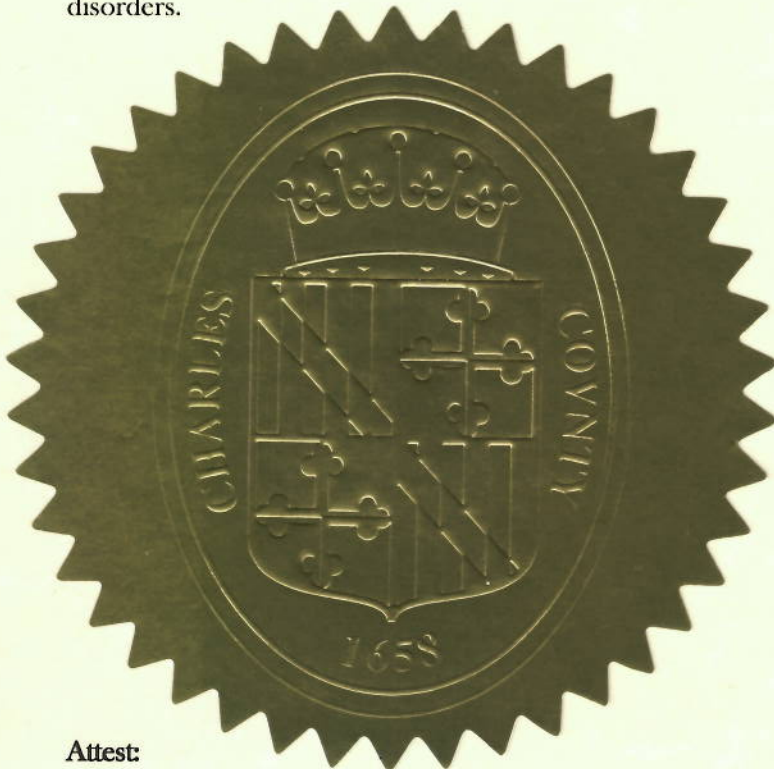
WHEREAS, Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder (HSD) is diagnosed when the musculoskeletal complications of joint hypermobility and joint instability arise in a person who does not have the defining features of an underlying syndrome such as EDS or other heritable disorders of connective tissue; and

WHEREAS, several related disorders are observed in several people with EDS and with HSD. These add complexity to the presentation of their condition and its management; and

WHEREAS, a network of EDS and HSD support groups can help connect those managing life with these conditions as well as better informing the health care community and the public; and

WHEREAS, early and accurate diagnosis can provide the opportunity to create life saving medical plans and improve quality of life since there is limited treatment for Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and no known cure. Further medical research and awareness can bring hope for treatment and a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, proclaim May 2023 as **Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month** in Charles County and encourage all residents to learn more and support medical research and awareness of these disorders.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners