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Dear Governor Deval Patrick:

On April 10, 2014, we invite you to join patients, caregivers and medical professionals round the world in recognizing Ependymoma Awareness Day.

Ependymoma is a form of brain cancer. Ependymoma Awareness Day is designed to increase public awareness of this rare tumor and the need for clinical studies to improve early diagnosis, standardize treatment and improve the health status of those living with this disease.

Ependymoma Awareness Day offers a rare opportunity to focus attention on this tumor, which affects the brain and spine of all age groups—from infants to older adults. Ependymoma Awareness Day will culminate with a butterfly release that will be streamed on the internet to that supporters around the world can share in this event. The delicate and beautiful butterfly was chosen to represent ependymoma as it symbolizes rebirth and hope.

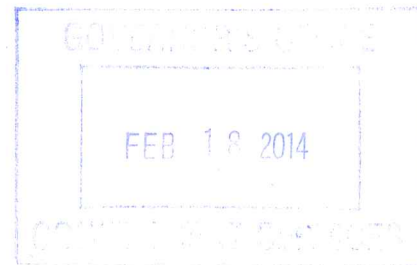
In recognition of the adults and children who have the diagnosis of ependymoma, we ask that the state of Massachusetts issue a proclamation for Ependymoma Awareness Day, on April 10, 2014.

Background material about Ependymoma Awareness Day, as well as sample language that might be helpful in drafting a proclamation, is attached. We look forward to working with your office on this important endeavour and in representing Massachusetts in this major international campaign.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Wen, MD



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WHEREAS adult and pediatric cancers are often thought of and treated separately, a collaborative group of scientists and health care providers have joined together to improve the diagnosis, treatment and lives of people living with ependymoma.

WHEREAS these varied practitioners are dedicated to the highest standards of professionalism and maintain these standards through education, and ongoing clinical research and a personal commitment to improve the lives of people living with ependymoma; and

WHEREAS people of all ages seek information to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and survival of this tumor which impacts their lives; and

WHEREAS it is vital that those with ependymoma, their families, and health care providers understand the full realm of available treatments and seek competent and professional care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, _____ (Governor) of _____ (State), do hereby proclaim April 10, 2014, to be Ependymoma Awareness Day, and I encourage all citizens to learn more about the symptoms of ependymoma and support improvements in treatment and quality of life.

_____ (Signature of Governor)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the seal of the _____ of _____ to be hereto affixed this 10th day of April 10, 2014.