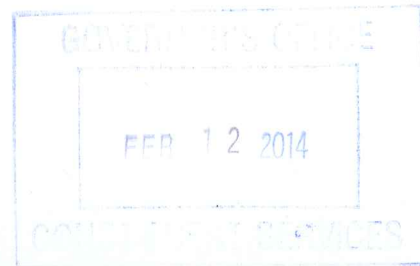


February 1, 2014

Governor Deval Patrick
State House
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133



Honorable Governor Deval Patrick,

We are writing to respectfully ask for a proclamation declaring May 2014 as Dandy-Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month in Massachusetts.

This year, hundreds of thousands of people across the United States will observe the 7th Dandy-Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month to raise awareness of this congenital brain defect and condition as well as the special challenges encountered by those affected. We respectfully ask you to proclaim May 2014 Dandy-Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month in Massachusetts on the basis that:

Dandy-Walker Syndrome is a congenital birth defect of the brain estimated to occur in 1 case per every 2,500 to 5,000 live births; however, this is likely a significant underestimate because of difficulties diagnosing the syndrome.

Patients with Dandy-Walker Syndrome present with developmental delay, enlarged head circumference, or signs and symptoms of hydrocephalus; causing pain and trauma for those with the disease and their families; and The Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc., a non-profit organization, is the only national organization dedicated to raising public awareness about this disease through education, informational activities and non-partisan research; and Massachusetts encourages all Americans to learn about Dandy-Walker Syndrome and hydrocephalus and recognize the achievements of all Americans with a disability, the important role that disabled Americans played throughout the entire history of the United States, and the scientific, literary, and social impact of disabled Americans on our world today.

Thank you for considering this request, for supporting Massachusetts's developmentally disabled community and supporting programs for this already vulnerable population. Your action on our behalf and the constituency we represent means so much.

Very respectfully,
Jennifer, Daniel, William and Vivian Clark

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