

Board of Directors

Eduardo Garcia, MD, Chair
Stephen Hall, Vice Chair
William E. Braunlich, Treasurer
Jeffrey Glidden, Secretary
Emma Catanzaro
Kerry Collins
Mary Crowell
Sarajune Dagen, RN
Paul Drotch
Barbara Dworetzky, MD
Tracey Milligan, MD
Richard Murray
Lauren Petit
Nancy Quetti
Brian Timko

Honorary

Steven C. Schachter, MD
Senator Steven Tolman

Professional Advisory Board

K. Babu Krishnamurthy, MD, Chair
Seema Adhami, MD
Ann Marie Bergin, MD
Marcia Buckminster, RN
Barbara Dworetzky, MD
Erik Johnson, EMT
Tracey Milligan, MD
Georgia Montouris, MD
Joel Oster, MD
Patricia Osborne Shafer, RN, MN
Uzma Sharif, MD
Jeffrey Weilburg, MD
Marsha Williams, RN, NP

President & CEO

Leslie G. Brody, Ph.D

Director of Operations

Charlene Sturgis

Massachusetts Office:

540 Gallivan Boulevard
Boston, MA 02124
Toll free: 888.576.9996
Phone: 617.506.6041
Fax: 617.506.6047

Maine Office:

209 Main Street, Suite 103
Saco, ME 04072
Phone: 207.602.6160

August 14, 2014

Bill Murphy
540 Gallivan Boulevard
2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02124

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 105
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month!

On behalf of the more than 67,000 people living with epilepsy in Massachusetts, and the Epilepsy Foundation New England (EFNE), I am writing to request that you, as Governor, proclaim November as Epilepsy Month here in the Commonwealth.

As one of 47 affiliates around the country of the National Epilepsy Foundation, EFNE serves Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine. Headquartered in Boston, we provide direct services to people living with epilepsy, their families and caregivers. EFNE provides information and referral assistance; maintains individual and family support services; advocates for the rights of those with epilepsy; and offer community-based education to employers, emergency first-responders, school nurses, and other allied health professionals.

The Epilepsy Foundation is an unwavering ally in raising awareness, providing support, and funding research to bring new treatments and therapies to market in a timeframe that matters for people with seizures. Epilepsy affects about 2 million people in the United States and is characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures. Delayed recognition of these seizures and inadequate treatment increases the risk for additional seizures, disability, decreased health-related quality of life and, in rare instances, death.

Although epilepsy can occur at any age, the condition is more likely to begin among children less than 2 years of age and adults older than 65 years. As do many who live with other chronic disorders, those with

2521609



STRONGER TOGETHER

epilepsy often face challenges related to managing epilepsy treatment, symptoms, disability, lifestyle limitations, emotional stress, and stigma.

Each November, the Epilepsy Foundation organizes a nationwide campaign to generate awareness about epilepsy, seizure recognition and first aid. Your proclaiming November as Epilepsy Month in Massachusetts will demonstrate our state's continued commitment to increasing community awareness and acceptance of this common, yet often misunderstood, disorder.

We would welcome the opportunity to bring a small contingent of people living with epilepsy in Massachusetts and their caregivers to your office sometime in late October or early November to be part of the Proclamation signing and a photo opportunity of the event. I have attached a sample proclamation for your consideration.

I look forward to response and the opportunity to meet with you. To schedule a convenient time please contact me at wmurphy@epilepsynewengland.org or by phone at (617) 851-7585. If, in the meantime, you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I appreciate your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Murphy'.

Bill Murphy
Director, Advocacy & Public Policy
Epilepsy Foundation New England

wmurphy@epilepsynewengland.org
(617) 851-7585

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a neurological condition characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures that temporarily affect a person's consciousness, bodily movements and/or sensations, while often creating long term effects and challenges on the life of individuals with epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy can affect anyone, at anytime, regardless of gender, race, age, or socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy and 1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy and seizures affect more than two million people across the United States, including more than 67,000 children and adults in Massachusetts diagnosed with recurring seizures; and

WHEREAS, epilepsy is the third most common neurological disorder among adults in the United States, behind Alzheimer's disease and stroke; and

WHEREAS, while epilepsy cannot currently be cured, many of those diagnosed with epilepsy can control their seizures with modern medicine and surgical techniques; and

WHEREAS, people with epilepsy continue to face social stigmatization and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, National Epilepsy Awareness Month is designed to increase the awareness of the disorder in an effort to encourage more Americans to understand the effects of epilepsy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Deval Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2014 as:

Epilepsy Awareness Month

in Massachusetts, and encourage all citizens to learn more about the symptoms and treatment of seizures to better understand epilepsy, and the many individuals, families, and communities epilepsy impacts.