



March 10, 2014  
The Honorable Vacant Vacant  
24 Beacon Street  
State House - Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133-1099

Dear Office of the Lt. Governor Vacant,

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of food allergic residents of our state, I am writing to request that a proclamation be issued this year for FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK, May 11-17, 2014.

Food allergies are a life-threatening illness that affects as many as 15 million Americans, and the prevalence is increasing among children. One in every 13 children has food allergies, or approximately two per classroom. According to the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, food allergy causes more than 200,000 emergency department visits each year, including about 90,000 for probable anaphylaxis.

There is no cure for food allergy, and rapid-onset reaction can result in anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, whole-body allergic reaction. Symptoms develop quickly, often within seconds or minutes, and may include: hives, vomiting, respiratory distress, swelling of the throat, a precipitous drop in blood pressure, shock and death.

With your support in declaring FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK, we can continue to increase public awareness about food allergies. It is our objective to help educate schools, restaurants and the citizens of our state on the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of food allergies.

Please find below a draft of a proposed Proclamation for FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK for the week of May 11-17, 2014 to help build recognition and support for food-allergic citizens. You may send the proclamation to:

Food Allergy Research & Education  
Attention: FAAW  
7925 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 1100  
McLean, VA 22102

On behalf of all the families who must struggle with food allergies, thank you for your consideration and support.

**FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS  
WEEK PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, as many as 15 million Americans have food allergies; nearly 6 million are children under the age of 18.

WHEREAS, research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children.

WHEREAS, eight foods cause 90% of all food allergy reactions in the U.S.: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat. Symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat.

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy results in more than 300,000 ambulatory care visits a year involving children under 18. Reactions typically occur when an individual

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unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic.

WHEREAS, there is no cure for food allergy, and scientists do not understand why. Strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death.


WHEREAS, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the safety and inclusion of individuals with food allergies while relentlessly seeking a cure,

THEREFORE I, \_\_\_\_\_, GOVERNOR for the \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim  
May 11-17, 2014: Food Allergy Awareness Week in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Christie Wolff





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THEREFORE I, \_\_\_\_\_, GOVERNOR for the \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim  
May 11-17, 2014: Food Allergy Awareness Week in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Mendonca

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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State House - Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133-1099

Dear Office of the Lt. Governor Vacant,

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May 11-17, 2014: Food Allergy Awareness Week in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Erin Gaffen

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.