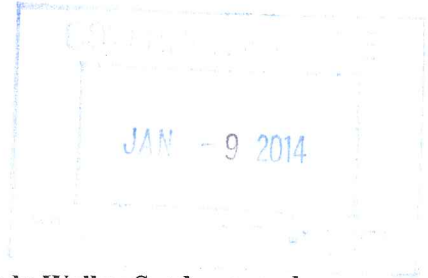


*Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc. 10325 Kensington Pkwy, Suite 384 Kensington, MD, USA 20895*

January 5, 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 7<sup>th</sup> **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 again proclaiming May 2014 **Dandy-Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month** in Massachusetts on the basis that:

WHEREAS, 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.

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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,

Eric Cole  
Executive Director  
Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc.  
1-877-Dandy-Walker

*The Dandy-Walker Alliance, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity registered in the State of Maryland. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please use this acknowledgement as a receipt for your tax records.*