

To: The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of the state of Massachusetts

Date: July 17, 2014

Re: Request for Proclamation declaring September, 2014 as POLIO
Awareness Month

FAX 617-727-9725

From: Susan DeFelice

[Redacted]

Governor Patrick, I am requesting that you sign the attached Proclamation
declaring September, 2014, Polio awareness Month.

Having lived through the polio epidemics of the 1950's I am aware of the crippling
disease that Polio is and that after surviving this disease there are over one
million survivors battling the debilitating affects of Post-Polio Sequelae or PPS.

Right now the border crises in Arizona, Texas and California with hundreds of
thousands of people, mostly children, coming from Central America and other
countries, there is no way of knowing if any of these children have ever been
immunized against Polio. The refugee camps are a pod that is currently
contained but these children are capable of releasing not just Polio but other
diseases as they are dispersed throughout our nation.

What is really sad is that immunization numbers in the USA have fallen because
too many parents believe the diseases like Polio are eradicated when it is not.
Parents do not remember the devastation of polio but grandparents like myself
do. In fact it is endemic in three countries and possibly more. The children least
likely to be vaccinated live in poorer areas. These "polio pockets" are ripe for
another Polio epidemic in this country.

Therefore I ask you to sign this proclamation as the border issue we now have is
not only humanitarian but a health crisis in progress. Thank you and best
wishes.

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Proclamation

WHEREAS, there are today more than 1 million survivors of North America's terrifying polio epidemics of the middle of the last century; and

WHEREAS, these polio survivors are experiencing Post-Polio Sequelae (PPS), the unexpected and often disabling symptoms — overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia and pain, cold intolerance, and difficulty swallowing and breathing -- that occur decades after the acute poliovirus infection; and

WHEREAS, Post-Polio Sequelae can be managed and even prevented if polio survivors conserve energy to stop overusing their reduced number of remaining, poliovirus-damaged neurons and weakened muscles and joints; and

WHEREAS, only a very limited number of medical professionals know of Post-Polio Sequelae, let alone know how to treat polio survivors with PPS; and

WHEREAS, Mia Farrow has joined with the International Centre for Polio Education and International Post-Polio Task Force to educate about polio and the cause and treatment of Post-Polio Sequelae through PostPolioInfo.com; and

WHEREAS, the number of children being paralyzed and killed by the poliovirus is once again on the rise due to wars in the Middle East and Africa preventing vaccination; and

WHEREAS, the tens of thousand immigrants mostly children flowing daily across our southern border poses a great health risk to all children and they must be vaccinated against polio; and

WHEREAS, air travel makes all Americans vulnerable to infection by an imported poliovirus and therefore all Americans must continue to be vaccinated against polio; and parents educated that Polio is NOT eradicated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, Governor of the State of MA, do hereby proclaim

September 2014

as

POLIO AWARENESS MONTH