

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

In our previous letter, we neglected to include sample proclamation language— kindly find it enclosed.

Men's Health Network (MHN) would like to remind you that National Men's Health Week 2013, June 10-16 (the week ending on Father's Day), is fast approaching. In recognition of National Men's Health Week, we urge you to issue a proclamation naming this week as Massachusetts Men's Health Week and a press release encouraging men to become more aware of their health needs.

National Men's Health Week, sponsored by Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Bill Richardson, passed Congress, was signed by President Clinton, and became Public Law 103-264 on May 31, 1994. As then-Congressman Bill Richardson noted during the passage of National Men's Health Week, increasing the awareness of men's health is an extremely important issue not just for men, but also for women and families.

Heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and increasing early detection and treatment of disease would significantly improve our Nation's health, as well as save limited health care dollars.

Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just a man's issue. Because of its impact on wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, men's health is truly a family issue.

Congressional Record, May 24, 1994, H3905

National Men's Health Week is a time for the public to recognize men's health needs. As a part of NMHW, MHN has announced the availability of the *MHN HealthZone* planning kit (www.mhnhealthzone.com) designed to help organizations nationwide conduct their own health events.

Thousands of organizations across the country participate in National Men's Health Week activities, to promote the health and wellness of men, boys, and their families. MHN also sponsors health screenings on Capitol Hill, attended by hundreds of lawmakers and congressional staff.

Please take this opportunity to acknowledge the importance of men's health in your state by issuing a proclamation declaring Massachusetts Men's Health Week. Your proclamation will be displayed in Congress and with your permission a copy will be placed on the website, www.menshealthweek.org, for the citizens of your state to view.

Please send your proclamation to Men's Health Network at P.O. Box 77476, Washington, DC 20013. If you include additional copies of the proclamation, we will be happy to present them to your Congressional delegation. Thank you for your assistance in protecting the health of the people of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Brandon Leonard, MA
202-543-6461 ext. 101

Men's Health Week

(Men's Health Week in the year 2013 is June 10-16)

Proclamation Text

Men's Health Week

Whereas, despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of five years less than women with African-American men having the lowest life expectancy; and

Whereas, educating the public and health care providers about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality from disease; and

Whereas, men who are educated about the value of preventative health will be more likely to participate in health screening; and

Whereas, Men's Health Network worked with Congress to develop National Men's Health Week as a special campaign to help educate men and their families about the importance of positive health attitudes and preventative health practices; and

Whereas, (your state) Men's Health Week will focus on a broad range of men's health issues, including heart disease, diabetes, prostate, testicular and colon cancer; and

Whereas, the citizens of this state are encouraged to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical check-ups;

Now, therefore, I, _____, Governor of the State of _____, do hereby proclaim the week leading up to and including Father's Day as Men's Health Week in this state, and encourage all our citizens to pursue preventative health practices and early detection efforts.

(signed)

(date)