

## PROCLAMATION REQUEST LETTER

Dear Governor Patrick,

As the Executive Director of the Massachusetts chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) serving Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire, the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to finding cures for blood cancers, I would like to request your assistance in an effort to increase awareness of the urgent need to fund research for breakthrough therapies and provide access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

Thousands of our fellow citizens in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire are afflicted with leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma; and LLS exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

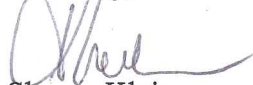
LLS has designated September 2014 as Blood Cancer Awareness Month. You can help by using your executive authority to issue a proclamation to demonstrate the need for this designation and support for the work of LLS.

Thanks to research, survival rates for patients with many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the early 1960s. Despite these advances, about one third of patients with a blood cancer still do not survive even five years after their diagnosis, which is why more funding is needed to bring better therapies to patients, and faster.

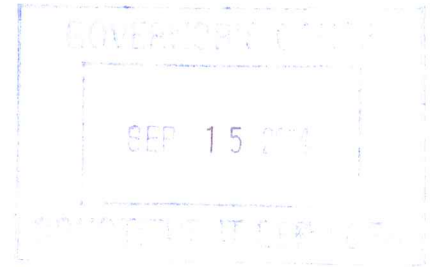
Attached is a draft statement for your review and consideration. Please feel free to adapt the language as you deem appropriate.

On behalf of blood cancer patients and families in our state, thank you for your consideration and support for this effort. If you have any comments or questions, please have your staff contact me.

Sincerely,



Sharon Klein  
Executive Director  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Massachusetts Chapter  
508.810.1300



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## PROCLAMATION:

### MASSACHUSETTS SUPPORTS THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY IN PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER AS BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

#### Resolution Recognizing September as Blood Cancer Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, an estimated 1,129,813 people are living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma or another form of blood cancer; with an estimated 156,420 new cases expected to be diagnosed in 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma and other blood cancers will kill an estimated 55,350 people in the United States this year alone, and

**WHEREAS**, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients, and

**WHEREAS**, LLS maintains an office in Massachusetts to help improve the quality of life for blood cancer patients and their families in the State of Massachusetts, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Massachusetts is similarly committed to the eradication of these diseases and supports the treatment of blood cancer patients and their families, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Massachusetts encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that are saving lives not someday, but today,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State of Massachusetts joins with LLS in designating the month of September 2014 as Blood Cancer Awareness Month to educate about the need for finding cures and creating access to treatments for all types of blood cancers; to get involved with LLS, from participation in fundraising campaigns, to making a donation or volunteering; and fund lifesaving research to advance breakthrough therapies for blood cancer patients.