



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

Dear Mr. Gowing:

As your constituent, I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the estimated 39,590 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2013, approximately 920 of whom live in Massachusetts. In 2014, pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 46,420 Americans, 73% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 94% of whom will die within five years of diagnosis.

My husband was 47 y.o. and healthy when he received his diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer 6 years ago. Like most patients, he was gone 6 1/2 months later, leaving me widowed at age 42 and leaving behind our 8 and 10 y.o. girls who watched him die. My young daughters and I do what we can to raise awareness and funds. We traveled to Washington, DC four out of the past five years, making many sacrifices to do so, to educate Congress about the importance of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in January 2013. We have been the top fund-raising team at PurpleStride Boston the past four years, working tirelessly to raise \$100,000. This is difficult as a single mother of two very active girls, but I do it without complaint because it is so important. But we can't do it alone.

To date, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and it is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent. Furthermore, the incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer are increasing, and pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. by 2020. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a proclamation supporting the observance of November 2013 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Acton, you can help us to raise awareness in our community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

We request that a total of **three** originals of the proclamation to be made available for our records. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Very truly yours,

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated 46,420 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 39,590 will die from the disease;

WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, is currently the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States and is projected to become the second by 2020;

WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent;

WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is generally late stage, and 73 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;

WHEREAS, approximately 920 deaths will occur in Massachusetts in 2014;

WHEREAS, the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* was signed into law in 2013, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to develop a scientific framework, or strategic plans, for pancreatic cancer and other deadly cancers, which will provide the strategic direction and guidance need to make true progress against these diseases;

WHEREAS, it will be very difficult to leverage opportunities that come out of the scientific framework developed as a result of the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* unless sustained and adequate funding is provided to the National Institute of Health and National Cancer Institute; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for medical research is critical to job protection and creation in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the national organization serving the pancreatic cancer community in Acton and nationwide through a comprehensive approach that includes public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Acton support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure;

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents in Acton are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments;

LET IT BE KNOWN, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts, recognizes and proclaims **the month of November 2014 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Acton.**

Michael J. Gowing, Chairman

Katherine E. Green, Vice Chairman

Janet K. Adachi

Peter J. Berry, Clerk

Frances J. Osman