

Dear [NAME]:

I am writing to request that August be declared Autoinflammatory Awareness Month in [New Jersey]. As a resident of [Gloucester City, New Jersey] and a parent of a child with a rare autoinflammatory disease, I believe it is necessary to recognize the importance of autoinflammatory disease awareness to the general public and the impact on the lives of those affected by this condition. During this month thousands of autoinflammatory patients and supporters will join forces to do the same.

Autoinflammatory diseases are caused by genetic mutations in molecules that are involved in regulating the innate immune response-a "hard wired" defense system that evolved to quickly recognize and act against infectious agents and other danger signals produced by our bodies.

Autoinflammatory diseases are not contagious. When patients are having flares of their disease symptoms they cannot infect anyone, even if they are having a fever, rash, non-infectious conjunctivitis, vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms that can be confused as an illness. These symptoms are triggered by the autoinflammatory disease, which in most cases are caused by genetic mutations. It is important to distinguish disease flares from infectious diseases.

In general, autoinflammatory disease flares follow a characteristic pattern each time that they occur, such as: The length of time with the fever, the accompanying symptoms, increases in inflammatory labs during flares, including elevated C-reactive protein (CRP), and Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR). In some conditions, such as PFAPA, patients can get flares that occur around the same time every few weeks. Other autoinflammatory diseases may have a more sporadic and unpredictable flare pattern, or they may be triggered by certain factors, such as exposure to cold or cooling temperatures leading to flares.

The 1st annual Autoinflammatory Awareness month is sponsored by the Autoinflammatory Alliance. Founded in 2006, Autoinflammatory Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving thousands of members worldwide with a mission to inform, educate and provide national and local support networks for those affected by autoinflammatory diseases, and to be an essential resource for health care professionals who treat autoinflammatory diseases.

[New Jersey] has a long history of supporting the causes of its citizens and I look forward to working with your office on this important endeavor and in representing New Jersey in this local and national campaign.

Sincerely,

Sample Proclamation Draft

[City/State] of [City/State Name]

Executive Department

Office of the [Government Office Name]

[Government Office City Name]

Resolution

WHEREAS, autoinflammatory diseases are caused by genetic mutations in molecules that are involved in regulating the innate immune response-a "hard wired" defense system that evolved to quickly recognize and act against infectious agents and other danger signals produced by our bodies. and

WHEREAS, the people suffering with autoinflammatory disease have fever, rash, non-infectious conjunctivitis, vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms and

WHEREAS, The need for widespread awareness and understanding of autoinflammatory diseases is critical

for meaningful research to continue so that the quality of their lives is improved, and that hope for a brighter future is real, and

WHEREAS, Autoinflammatory Awareness month will be celebrated annually, and is sponsored by the Autoinflammatory Alliance, who supports research and ongoing awareness efforts, and

NOW, THEREFORE I, (Name/title), [GOVERNMENT OFFICE TITLE] OF THE

[CITY/STATE] OF [CITY/STATE NAME], hereby proclaim the month of August as

Autoinflammatory Awareness Month, bringing hope to those families living with Autoinflammatory

Diseases. And I call on all scientists and doctors to support continued research on autoinflammatory diseases, recognizing that advancements in care will mean a brighter future for all those affected by Autoinflammatory Diseases.

On this _____ day of August, 2015;

[Name of government official]

[Government office title]

[City/State] of [City/State Name]