

A PROCLAMATION FOR DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

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WHEREAS, dysautonomia is a group of medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system, which is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, temperature control and more;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia are considered rare diseases, such as Multiple System Atrophy and Pure Autonomic Failure, while other forms of dysautonomia are common, impacting millions of people in the US and around the world, such as Diabetic Autonomic Neuropathy, Neurocardiogenic Syncope and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome;

WHEREAS, dysautonomia impacts people of any age, gender, race or background, including individuals living in Carroll County;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia can be very disabling and this disability can result in social isolation, stress on the families of those impacted, and financial hardship;

WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia can result in death, causing tremendous pain and suffering for those impacted and their loved ones;

WHEREAS, increased awareness about dysautonomia will help patients get diagnosed and treated earlier, save lives, and foster support for individuals and families coping with dysautonomia in our community;

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to celebrate Dysautonomia Awareness Month each October around the world;

WHEREAS, we seek to recognize the contributions of the professional medical community, patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about dysautonomia in Carroll County.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Robert Wirkner, Thomas White, and Jeffrey Ohler, Commissioners of Carroll County, do hereby proclaim the month of October throughout Carroll County as

DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

Proclamation adopted this 20th day of October, 2016.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF CARROLL COUNTY

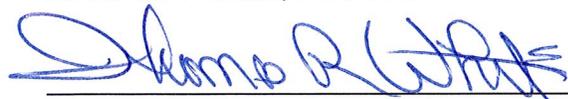
ATTEST:



 Christopher R. Modranski, Assistant Clerk I
 Valerie S. Mossor, Assistant Clerk II
 Janice E. Leggett, Clerk Supervisor



Robert E. Wirkner, President



Thomas R. White, Vice President



Jeffrey L. Ohler, Commissioner

October 12, 2016

Carroll County Commissioners Office
119 S. Lisbon Street #201
Carrollton, OH 44615

Re: Dysautonomia Awareness Month
Proclamation Request

Dear Commissioner:

I am seeking your assistance in raising awareness of an important public health matter. October is "Dysautonomia Awareness Month" around the world. We're asking the County of Carroll to help us raise awareness by issuing a Proclamation declaring October to be Dysautonomia Awareness Month in Carroll County.

Dysautonomia (pronounced "dis - oughta - know' - me - uh") is an umbrella term used to describe several different neurological conditions caused by a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. The autonomic nervous system controls all of the involuntary bodily functions that we normally take for granted - regulation of our blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, digestion, kidney function, temperature control, pupil constriction and dilation, etc. When the autonomic nerves are damaged, it can cause very serious problems in one or more of these systems.

In 2014, my daughter Elyza (11 years old at that time) was diagnosed with a form of dysautonomia known as Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). While many people have never heard of it, POTS is not rare. Mayo Clinic researchers estimate that POTS impacts 1 out of 100 teens, and a total of 1-3 million Americans including adult onset patients, and millions more around the globe, making POTS more common than well-known conditions like multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. The majority of people living with POTS are young women between ages 12 and 40, although older adults and males can be impacted too. POTS symptoms include tachycardia upon standing, blood pooling in the extremities, blood pressure dysregulation, fainting, dilated pupils which cause a sensitivity to light and frequent migraines, chest pains, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal motility problems, peripheral neuropathy, and many other symptoms. Autonomic disorders cause so many symptoms, because the autonomic nervous system controls so many different bodily functions. Experts compare the disability seen in POTS to what is seen in COPD and congestive heart failure. 25% of people living with POTS cannot work or attend school (Elyza has missed her entire 6th and 7th grade years of school as has not started her 8th grade year), resulting in a substantial economic and social impact to families and our country as a whole.