



**Vascular Birthmarks Foundation
International Day of Awareness
May 15**



Dear

I am writing to respectfully request that you acknowledge the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation's International Day of Awareness on May 15th, as officially recognized by the US Congress in 2004. I would like to propose our local government also celebrate this important day for families affected by a vascular birthmark.

May I suggest, on behalf on the VBF, that you propose a proclamation or resolution of your choice?

The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation is an international charitable organization that provides support and informational resources for individuals affected by hemangiomas, port wine stains and other vascular birthmarks and tumors, sponsors relevant research and promotes physician education.

Each year the Vascular Birthmarks Foundation helps thousands of families with infants and children get up-to-date information through our website, conferences, clinics, newsletters and publicity. However, there are thousands more who remain uninformed and are in desperate need of knowledge and treatment options. Families armed with this valuable knowledge will be able to make the best choice for their child.

Statistics show that 40,000 infants are born each year with a vascular birthmark that requires the opinion of a specialist. Of those infants requiring the opinion or care of a specialist, 80% of them have birthmarks in the head or neck area. The outcomes for those children who go untreated for vascular birthmarks can be devastating. These results range from disfigurement, blindness, to life altering or life threatening situations. Internal vascular birthmarks can grow to such proportions straining organs and putting a child's life at risk. Often by the time families have found a doctor who can offer the best treatment options, their case has become complicated. With the choice of early intervention, these children can be spared social ridicule, loss of sight or sometimes life-threatening crises. The Vascular Birthmarks Foundations seeks to reduce these problems by providing information and networking individuals into treatment with specialists as soon as necessary.

Will you join me in raising awareness this year by acknowledging this international grass roots campaign in May that brings hope to thousands of families?

Thank you for supporting this important effort. We are Changing Lives – One Mark at a Time.

Sincerely,