**How to Get Your Governor to declare May 5 as Cri Du Chat Awareness Day**

Before we know it, May will be here and that means CRI DU CHAT SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY!

For those of you who live in the United States, here is how to request a proclamation from your Governor requesting that they declare May 5 as Cri Du Chat Awareness Day.

* First, just because a Governor declared May 5 as Cri Du Chat Awareness Day in 2020 – you still will have to ask in 2021 **and all future years!**
* Start Early – the best thing to do is make your request before March 1 as most states say it takes up to six weeks to determine whether or not the request will be granted and to issue the Proclamation.
* Do a google search “Governor OF STATE?” (for ***your*** state) This will take you to the Governor’s website.
* On the Governor’s website, on the home page search for “Request a Proclamation” – usually there will be an online form to request the proclamation.
* You are the “requestor” – the requesting organization is “The 5p-Society”
* Sample language is below – ALL STATES WILL ASK YOU TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE.
* Some states do not have online forms – so when you search for “Request a Proclamation” you will be directed to an office – call there and ask how to send an email request for a proclamation.
* Keep a copy of the request and write down the date you submitted it. This will be helpful when you call or email to follow up the request. I suggest that you do this about 2 weeks after you submit the request. Be prepared to call back several times!
* You may have to call a general phone number from the web page and ask to speak with the person who handles requests for proclamations.
* And remember, Governors get hundreds of requests every month for them to declare given days so if the request is turned down, do not take it personally!
* If you run into issues feel free to email me at [Jaggerwatt@hotmail.com](mailto:Jaggerwatt@hotmail.com)

Whereas, the 5p- Society of North America, along with support organizations from over 30 countries around the world are proud to announce that May 1 through May 10, 2021 will be designated as International Cri Du Chat Syndrome Awareness Week.

*Whereas, May 5 has been designated internationally as Cri du Chat Syndrome Day.*

 Whereas, Individuals with Cri Du Chat deserve to be recognized for what they can do versus what they cannot do and our hope is that we can raise awareness, of Cri Du Chat Syndrome, by spreading our message to each and every person we meet.

Whereas, each year in the United States alone, approximately 50 to 60 children are born with ***5p- Syndrome*** (five p minus), also known as ***Cat Cry*** Syndrome or ***Cri du Chat*** Syndrome. Some common characteristics of Cri du Chat Syndrome at birth are a high pitched cry, low birth weight, poor muscle tone, microcephaly, and potential medical complications. "5p-" is a term used by geneticists to describe a portion of chromosome number five that is missing in these individuals.

Whereas, one of the goals of Cri Du Chat Awareness Week is to end the outdated misinformation given to families when their child is diagnosed with Cri Du Chat.

 Whereas, children born with this rare genetic defect will most likely require ongoing support from a team of parents, therapists, and medical and educational professionals to help the child achieve his or her maximum potential.

Whereas, there are many families with family members with Cri Du Chat  living in (FILL IN YOUR STATE) with the syndrome that are members of the 5p- Society  and over 1,000 families in the Country.

Resolved, I Governor (FILL IN YOUR GOVERNOR’s NAME) declare May 5, 2021 as Cri Du Chat Awareness Day in (FILL IN YOUR STATE.)