[DATE]

[ADDRESSEE TITLE] [ADDRESSEE FIRST NAME] [ADDRESSEE LAST NAME]

[ADDRESSEE STREET ADDRESS]

[ADDRESSEE CITY], [ADDRESSEE STATE] [ADDRESSEE ZIP CODE]

Subject: World HIE Awareness Day Proclamation/Letter of Support Request

Dear [ADDRESSEE SALUTATION] [ADDRESSEE LAST NAME],

Hope for HIE, the premier resource for families whose children have been diagnosed with hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), has designated April World HIE Awareness Month. Hope for HIE is a 501(c)3 non-profit registered with the IRS.

I am writing to request a proclamation or letter of support from the [NAME OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICE OR LEGISLATIVE BODY] acknowledging World HIE Awareness Month on behalf of Hope for HIE and families, like mine, in [YOUR STATE] and around the world that have been impacted by HIE. The goal of World HIE Awareness Month is to increase awareness, education, and support among medical professionals, support providers, legislators, and the public.

HIE occurs in two to three per one thousand live births. Simply put, HIE means the following:

* Hypoxic = lack of oxygen
* Ischemic = restricting blood flow
* Encephalopathy = affecting the brain

When the brain is deprived of oxygen, brain cells are injured. Some may recover, some may die. The most common causes of oxygen deprivation to the brain are low levels of oxygen in the blood or a reduced flow of oxygen to the brain. This can happen in a variety of ways prior to birth, during the birth process, after birth, and during childhood.

HIE has many causes, including placental insufficiency, uterine rupture, placental abruption, true umbilical knots, cord compression, maternal blood clotting disorders, fetal maternal hemorrhage, extremely low maternal blood pressure, trauma during delivery, placental blood clots, shoulder dystocia, cord prolapse, aneurysm rupture, cardiac arrest and near Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) events.

The only treatment that has shown clinical benefit immediately post-injury is therapeutic hypothermia (also known as cooling). Multiple studies have shown a reduction death and disability, depending on severity. Those affected may need other medical intervention to support their organs or to treat seizures as they recover.

Outcomes are wide-ranging. No two children will be the same. The impact of each child's injury is different based on multiple factors, including what parts of the brain were affected and how damaging the insult was to the brain.

* 75-80% survive
* 50-70% experience seizures
* 30-40% develop a developmental disability, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, vision loss, hearing loss, feeding issues, cognitive issues, speech delays or global delays

I am requesting your support because World HIE Awareness Month is personally significant to my family and me. [OPTIONAL - INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR PERSONAL STORY]

Hope for HIE has been an invaluable resource for information and has helped me connect with other families around the world affected by HIE. With your support for World HIE Awareness Month, families will have a better chance of learning about Hope for HIE and other helpful resources more quickly.

I’d appreciate an opportunity to visit with you to personally thank you, share more about our story, and talk with you about how much your support for means to families like mine.

Please contact me at [PHONE NUMBER] or [EMAIL ADDRESS] to let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR STREET ADDRESS]

[YOUR CITY], [YOUR STATE] [YOUR ZIP CODE]

Ph: [PHONE NUMBER]