

HOUSE No. 02583

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to designate Narcolepsy Awareness Day.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Anne M. Gobi

5th Worcester

Christine E. Canavan

10th Plymouth

HOUSE No. 02583

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2583) of Canavan and Gobi for the annual proclamation by the Governor setting apart the seventh day of March as “Narcolepsy Awareness Day” Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to designate Narcolepsy Awareness Day.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Whereas, According to current estimates, the disorder affects about one in every 2,000
- 2 Americans. Researchers estimate 200,000 people living in the United States is effected by this
- 3 chronic disease. Whereas, Narcolepsy appears throughout the United States, in every racial and
- 4 ethnic group, affecting males and females equally;

- 5 Whereas, The cause of narcolepsy remains unknown, however recent research suggests that
- 6 Narcolepsy may be an auto-immune disease, and no cure for the disorder currently exists;

- 7 Whereas, Narcolepsy has the potential to prove profoundly disabling to all those who are
- 8 affected by the disorder, causing them to fall asleep involuntarily while going about their daily
- 9 lives;

10 Whereas, Experts recognize that narcolepsy sometimes contributes to certain childhood
11 behavioral problems, such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and, if left undiagnosed and
12 untreated, narcolepsy can pose special problems for children and adolescents, interfering with
13 their psychological, social, and cognitive development;

14 Whereas, Narcolepsy is not definitively diagnosed in most patients until 10 to 15 years after the
15 first symptoms appear due to a lack of awareness amongst both health professionals and the
16 general public;

17 Whereas, it is understood to be to the benefit of the general public to raise awareness of this
18 potentially crippling neurological disorder;

19 Therefore, let it be enacted as follows:

20 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
21 amended by inserting after section 15CCCCC, the following section: -

22 “SECTION 15 DDDDD. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the
23 seventh day of March as “Narcolepsy Awareness Day” in recognition of the many citizens of the
24 Commonwealth affected by Narcolepsy, the need for increased awareness amongst medical
25 professionals and the general public, research and support for those affected and their families,
26 and recommending that the day be observed in an appropriate manner by the citizens of
27 Massachusetts. “