**Sample Letter Requesting a Proclamation**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

On behalf of myself and others affected by Marfan syndrome, I am writing to request that February be proclaimed as Marfan Awareness Month in the (county/city/state of \_\_\_\_\_)

Marfan syndrome is a potentially life-threatening connective tissue condition that affects the heart and blood vessels, eyes, bones and joints, lungs, and other parts of the body. The most dangerous part of the condition is the impact on the aorta, the large artery that takes blood away from the heart. In affected people, the aorta is prone to enlarge and can tear or rupture, causing sudden early death. That’s why early diagnosis and treatment are so critical. More than 200,000 people in the U.S. have Marfan and related conditions, but experts say that half are not diagnosed. Awareness saves lives.

The Marfan Foundation’s mission is to save lives and improve the quality of life for people living with Marfan syndrome and related conditions. The Foundation pursues the most innovative research and ensures that it receives proper funding. creates an informed public and educated patient community, and also keeps the medical community up-to-date to increase early diagnosis and ensure life-saving treatment. In addition, the Foundation provides relentless support to families, caregivers, and healthcare providers.

In recognition of the importance of and the threats it imposes on the lives of our citizens, we ask that the (county/city/state of \_\_\_\_\_) issue a proclamation for Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month, declaring it as the month of February.

We look forward to working with your office on this journey in representing the (county/city/state of \_\_\_\_\_) in this important global campaign. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**EXAMPLE: Letter of Proclamation**

In Recognition of Marfan Awareness in [State]

Marfan syndrome is a life-threatening genetic condition, and an early, accurate diagnosis is essential, not only for people with Marfan syndrome but also for those with a related condition. Knowing the signs of these conditions can save lives. Approximately 200,000 people in the U.S. have these conditions. Only with an accurate diagnosis and treatment can affected people live a full life span. Otherwise, they are at risk of an early sudden death due to a tea in their aorta, the large blood vessel that takes blood away from the heart.

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February is Marfan Awareness Month. Throughout the month, The Marfan Foundation and all those with Marfan syndrome and their families are focused on raising awareness about the signs of Marfan syndrome so that people who might be affected but do not know can get a life-saving diagnosis and treatment.

The State of [State] commends The Marfan Foundation for its commitments to individuals living with Marfan syndrome and related disorders, and their families, and extends best wishes for a successful month of increasing awareness and saving lives.

**EXAMPLE- A Proclamation**

**Whereas**, Marfan syndrome is a life-threatening genetic connective tissue condition that can involve many parts of the body including the heart and blood vessels, eyes, bones and joints, and lungs; demonstrated by varying degrees of disability, pain, muscular skeletal issues, often resulting in a lifelong series of multi-system health-related maladies; and

**Whereas**, It is estimated that 1 in 5,000 individuals worldwide are born with Marfan syndrome, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity; and

**Whereas,** the number and severity of symptoms associated with Marfan syndrome differ greatly among individuals even among members of the same family; and

 **Whereas,** all expressions of Marfan syndrome are life-long, incurable, and potentially debilitating. Because it is a life-threatening genetic condition, timely diagnosis and treatment is essential; and

**Whereas**, Marfan syndrome is often misdiagnosed and may be an under-diagnosed condition; and

**Whereas**, through public awareness, the State of [STATE] seeks to raise awareness of Marfan syndrome in order to properly diagnose and treat individuals affected by this condition.

Now, Therefore, I, NAME, Governor of STATE, do hereby proclaim The Month of February 2023, to be,

MARFAN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH