**Sample Letter Requesting Proclamation of**

**ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 2024**

***Cut, Paste, Personalize, and Save a Copy for Your Records!***

Dear Governor [Last Name],

I am writing because a silent killer is attacking too many of the citizens of [your state] at this very moment. It's a disease that's caused tremendous pain to me and my family. *[or others if applicable*]. In year of diagnosis, [I or my husband or First and Last Name] was diagnosed with Stage \_\_\_ Esophageal Cancer. *Share details about your personal experience and why this matter to you here.*

At the time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was diagnosed, we had no idea that Esophageal Cancer was one of the fastest increasing cancer diagnoses in the U.S. — up more than 700 percent in recent decades. ***We didn't know it could be caused by persistent heartburn or reflux disease.***

But all too soon we discovered these startling statistics - and many other alarming facts. For instance, **Esophageal Cancer has one of the highest mortality rates of any cancer,** more than 80 percent who are diagnosed will lose their battle with this devastating disease within five years. And a big part of the reason for these dismal statistics is the lack of awareness about Esophageal Cancer. **When the precursor of this deadly cancer is identified, new procedures have been shown to eliminate the risk of developing Esophageal Cancer in 98% of cases. This makes awareness so vitally important!**

**That is why I am calling on you to proclaim April 2024 Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in [your state]**. By raising the awareness about this deadly disease, you can help ensure other families avoid the suffering we have experienced.

Esophageal Cancer has taken a toll on many families in communities throughout our state. I hope that by writing to you, we can save lives. With your support, we can improve awareness, increase early detection, and promote progress in treatment so that others at risk for this devastating cancer enjoy longer, healthier lives.

Attached please find draft language for a Proclamation of Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in [your state]. I’m working with ECAN, the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Network—to share this life-saving message. ECAN has assisted me by providing the sample proclamation along with a fact sheet and scientific citations about the facts we cite in our materials. I am sending those for your information as well.

I hope we can count on your support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [your email] or [your phone number]. I look forward to working with you to help raise awareness about Esophageal Cancer so we can save the lives of citizens of [your state] who may be unaware of their risk for this deadly cancer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Your Name
Mailing Address**

**Phone**

**Email**