

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Room 128
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Kunze,

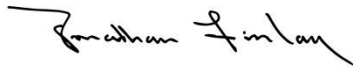
On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital, we write in support of Senate Bill 57 to designate May 17th as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) Awareness Day in Ohio.

As you may know, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) is a childhood disease with a dismal prognosis that has remained unchanged for over 50 years. Biologic investigation has been stalled by the lack of pretreatment tissue, as biopsy has been reserved for atypical cases. Recent advances in surgical and molecular-analytic techniques have increased the safety and potential utility of brain stem biopsy, which has now been incorporated into several prospective clinical trials.

Our experts at Nationwide Children's Hospital have been part of the national and international efforts that have been developed in order to help find a cure for this disease. We are hopeful that our efforts will yield new insights into DIPG molecular pathogenesis, and therefore open new avenues for the investigation of targeted therapies.

We believe that we cannot fulfill our goal without the community's and the legislators' support. Therefore we applaud your role in increasing the awareness of DIPG, and we completely support the Chad Tough Foundation efforts that are dedicated for the same noble goal.

Sincerely,



Jonathan L. Finlay, MB ChB FRCP
The Elizabeth and Richard Germain Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer,
Director of Neuro-oncology, Nationwide Children's Hospital
Professor of Pediatrics, The Ohio State University & The James Comprehensive Cancer Center