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February 6, 2015

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer 900 Court St. NE, H-484 Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Rep. Keny-Guyer:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation Northwest, thank you for sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 14 asking the Oregon State Legislature to designate March 26 as "Purple Day" to raise awareness of epilepsy. We are grateful for your support of the 37,000 people in Oregon living with epilepsy.

All too often, people with seizures live a life where each day they face challenges in employment, education, mobility, health care and much more. They face social rejection, discrimination, and simple tasks like driving become hurdles to living a fully productive life. Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) can be a constant fear for many, and certainly loss of loved ones to epilepsy is devastating.

We are proud to say people with epilepsy are resilient. They overcome challenges by being advocates for themselves and others. They create opportunities to advance social services to support those living with epilepsy. They support research taking place in Oregon and throughout the country. They come together to support each other and share personal experiences.

The Epilepsy Foundation Northwest leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy. The Epilepsy Foundation Northwest is the principal advocate for the epilepsy community in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska with support to neighboring Northwest states. Nearly 136,000 people are living with epilepsy in the Northwest.

Some of our uncompensated programs include seizure response trainings, public education conferences, support groups, the youth Camp Discovery, the H.O.P.E. Volunteer Program, a veteran's epilepsy awareness program, the Speak Up Speak Out advocacy program, an emergency medication assistance program, employment assistance programs, and SUDEP support for families and friends.

The Epilepsy Foundation Northwest is honored to support designation of March 26 as "Purple Day" to help advance epilepsy awareness in Oregon. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Brent Herrmann President/CEO

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