

California Legislature



SCOTT WILK

Assembly Member, 38th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2014

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Wilk Raises Awareness to Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)

SACRAMENTO – Assemblyman Scott Wilk’s, R- Santa Clarita, ACR 151 will declare the week of May 25, 2014 to May 31, 2014 as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) Awareness Week to honor those who work to make research and resources a reality for children suffering from DIPG and their families.

“This past year I had the honor of meeting a woman named Janet Demeter from Santa Clarita, who survived one of the most unimaginable devastations a parent could ever go through: the loss of a child. Janet lost her son, Jack, to a rare brain tumor called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

After the loss of her son, Janet went on to create a foundation in Jack’s name called the, ‘Jack’s Angels Foundation.’ This non-profit organization is committed to raising awareness and fighting against malignant brain tumors. I commend the efforts of Janet and the ‘Jack’s Angels Foundation,’ for committing to fighting against DIPG,” Wilk said.

DIPG is one of the most resistant cancers to chemotherapy treatments, incurring 100-150 new diagnoses per year in the United States. This form of brain tumor is so fatal that fewer than 10% of children with DIPG survive two years after being diagnosed, with a median survival rate of 9 months. There is a significant need for more research on DIPG and as of today there is no such therapy that has been effective in treating children with this rare disease. Progress in researching DIPG has been consistently hampered because of the risks associated with retrieving a biopsy from this sort of brain tumor.

Wilk stated, “Making May 25th through the 31st DIPG Awareness Month would be not only conducive toward finding a cure, but toward raising awareness about this rare disease in the hopes that more resources become available for doctors to one day eradicate this illness.”

ACR 151 will be heard on the Assembly floor on Thursday, June 12.

The 38th Assembly District encompasses Simi Valley, the northern section of the San Fernando Valley and most of the Santa Clarita Valley.

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