

WSA Contact: Terry Monkaba
Executive Director
www.williams-syndrome.org
tmonkaba@williams-syndrome.org
1-248-244-2229
1-800-806-1871 (toll-free)



MEDIA ADVISORY

Rep. Peters [D-MI] Introduces Resolution on Behalf of the WSA

[WASHINGTON, DC] – On Tuesday, May 10, Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced House Resolution 256 “Expressing support for designation of the week of May 8, 2011, through May 14, 2011, as Williams Syndrome Awareness Week.” The resolution, which recognizes the valuable contributions the Williams Syndrome Association (WSA) provides to families, was supported by three original co-sponsors: Congressman C.W. Bill Young (R-FL), Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (D-MD).

“Many Americans are unfamiliar with Williams syndrome, and the challenges that thousands of American families face as a result every day,” says Congressman Peters, local Representative for the WSA, “The Williams Syndrome Association, based in Troy, does incredible work reaching out, supporting families, and raising awareness of this condition. Recognizing Williams Syndrome Awareness Week will not just recognize the work of the WSA, but all Americans around the country who are helping families and making a difference.”

Williams syndrome is a rare genetic condition that is present at birth and affects more than 25,000 individuals in the United States. It is characterized by lifelong medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities, as well as characteristic facial features, excellent verbal skills, and an affinity for music.

The Williams Syndrome Association has been working since 1982 to increase international awareness and bring valuable resources to families touched by the disorder. National patient registries, international professional conferences, and summer camps for children and adults with WS have played a large role in increasing the discussion about WS and other genetic disorders.

Williams Syndrome Awareness Week was initiated by the WSA in 2009 to generate awareness about Williams syndrome and raise funding for critical WSA programs and initiatives. The signature Awareness Week activity is the “Walk For Williams” which takes place in communities across the country. This year, over 6,000 people are expected to participate in local walks in 49 cities. For more information, please visit www.williams-syndrome.org

###