Dear <INSERT NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL>:

I am writing you today about a rare disease called tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), because it affects <ME/MY CHILD> and I need your support to help increase awareness about it. TSC causes tumors to form in vital organs – like the brain, eyes, heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and skin. TSC is also the leading genetic cause of both epilepsy and autism. Because TSC is considered a “linchpin” disorder, it is also a disease that holds an incredible amount of promise for major breakthroughs in treating cancer, epilepsy and even autism.

<INSERT BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TSC AFFECTS YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE.>

While about 50,000 Americans and 1 million people worldwide have TSC, it’s taken a group of committed moms and dads, brothers and sisters, and friends and neighbors who diligently fight to make sure the world notices. Ours is a true American grassroots success story. We formed our own organization, the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, in 1974. We advocate with elected officials for Federal research dollars. We fund and drive research that has lead to extraordinary breakthroughs in our understanding of the disease. We spend countless hours working with doctors and scientists to make sure TSC is on their radar screen. We help educators know how to work with our children. And we take care of each other.

Of course, we constantly seek new ways to increase awareness of the TSC and why research is so critical, and that’s why I’m writing today to ask a simple favor: Could you please declare May 15 as Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Global Awareness Day by official proclamation? I’m enclosing a sample proclamation template that can be used for this purpose.

I’d also request an official picture with you and the proclamation, which I will try to get the local press to cover as well. Thank you so much for your consideration of my request. If you have any questions, I can be reached at <INSERT PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS>.

Regards,

<INSERT SIGNATURE AND NAME>