



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2015

MARY PAT CHRISTIE
FIRST LADY

Dear Michael,

I invite you to join me in the 2015 Light the Way campaign to spread awareness of recent revolutionary advances being made to empower individuals with Down syndrome. Many First Spouses joined me in this awareness campaign in the past several years. As New Jersey's First Lady, I have been inspired by so many outstanding privately led initiatives that are truly making a difference in communities throughout the Garden State. Two such group, Research Down Syndrome and LuMind Foundation, support biomedical research directed towards the development of treatments to address the intellectual challenges associated with Down syndrome.

On the evening of Saturday, March 21, as part of the Light the Way campaign, New Jersey will light the Governor's Residence, Drumthwacket, in blue in recognition of Down syndrome cognitive research. This date is particularly meaningful as Down syndrome results from the presence of three copies of chromosome 21. Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal disorder, affecting over 400,000 in the United States.

Today, as a result of non-profit groups such as Research Down Syndrome and LuMind Foundation, groundbreaking advances have been made which hold the near term promise to increase life opportunities for those with Down syndrome. Research is also providing critical new insights regarding Alzheimer's disease and its potential treatments. I am pleased to once again endorse this effort, which brings a fresh approach to the long-standing, complex issues related to the needs of those with intellectual disabilities.

It is my hope that other First Spouses will again participate in this Light the Way campaign on Saturday, March 21st, 2015. We will send out a press release acknowledging your support of the campaign. Your involvement will recognize our special citizens with Down syndrome and inspire their loved ones in their continued efforts to advance cognitive research.

Please contact Patricia White, patwhiteflatley@comcast.net (973-879-2373), or Bob Schoen, rschoen@researchdhs.org (847-710-2251) for additional information.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Christie
First Lady of New Jersey