



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

For Immediate Release

Date: December 19, 2013

Contact: Maria Barbara
(631) 854-0940 (office)
(516) 457-2573 (cell)
maria.barbara@suffolkcountyny.gov

January 26 is Histiocytosis Day in Suffolk County

The Suffolk County Legislature passed a bill declaring January 26 "Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis Day" in Suffolk County. The bill's sponsor, Legislator Tom Cilmi said, "Suffolk County has led the way with many important, impactful pieces of legislation...legislation that has no doubt saved lives. Today we lead the way again in bringing attention to this rare disease which impacts 1 in 200,000 children. Hopefully that leadership will lead to more public awareness, more accurate diagnoses and more funding for research so that we can save lives."

Cilmi said he was inspired by East Islip resident, Taylor Ryan (age 12), who lives with LCH, a rare blood disorder which can effect the central nervous system and is often treated with chemotherapy. He said, "Taylor has been such an inspiration to the community and to me personally through her selflessness and positive attitude. Through it all, she's always smiling and full of life; she's determined to beat this horrible disease. Taylor says, we should all learn to 'fight like a girl,' and having seen the fight in her, I agree."

Teresa Ryan, Taylor's mom, said, "This much-needed legislation will benefit not only Taylor but many others currently fighting this debilitating disease. As Taylor says, 'Just because histiocytosis is rare, it doesn't mean that kids with it don't matter.' Tom Cilmi, who has always been a supporter, has joined 'Team Taylor' to show that these kids do matter. We won't stop until everyone knows what Histiocytosis is; it is our hope that one day we will find a cure."