



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN
Fourth Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 313
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL: (617) 722-1432
FAX: (617) 722-1004

CINDY.FRIEDMAN@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

May 12, 2025

Chair Nick Collins
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
24 Beacon St. Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
24 Beacon St. Room 466
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Collins and Chair Cabral,

I write in support of a bill I filed that is before your committee, S.2152, *An Act designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day*.

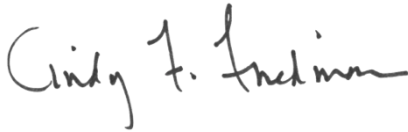
As this bill's name makes clear, this legislation would designate June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day. The proposal for this bill came from a young Lexington constituent named Owen Rosenthal. Owen was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome (TS) in September 2023. Since his diagnosis, Owen has been a vocal advocate for spreading awareness about TS on behalf of the Tourette Association of America (TAA) in Washington, D.C. Owen strives to help those diagnosed with TS feel more accepted in their communities and to help those who are not lucky enough to receive a diagnosis yet.

As Owen explained to me, Tourette Syndrome is a condition that can cause people to make sounds or movements they can't control. According to the TAA and the CDC, 1 in 50 children from 5-17 years old in the U.S. have a tic disorder or TS. These sounds or movements can be challenging to experience in and of themselves – they can lead to stigma or shame that can cause isolation, loneliness, and other issues. As if this weren't enough, some of those with Tourette's Syndrome also experience mental health challenges, such as anxiety and depression.

As Owen rightfully pointed out to me, designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day won't solve all these problems – but establishing a day of observance will bring more attention to a condition that affects the lives of many in the Commonwealth. Hopefully, observing this day will also help reduce the stigma associated with the condition, allowing those it affects to live happier, more open lives.

Therefore, I respectfully request the committee to report the bill favorably as expeditiously as possible. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy F. Friedman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cindy F. Friedman