



**For Immediate Release**

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**ASSEMBLYMEMBER MARY HAYASHI, CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CEO DUSTIN CORCORAN, PATIENTS, DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS GATHER IN SACRAMENTO TO EMPOWER, EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM NEUROPATHY**

*Hundreds Gather in Sacramento to Celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Neuropathy Action Awareness Day and Provide Neuropathy Patients with Lifesaving Resources*

SACRAMENTO (June 17, 2010) – The Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF), a non-profit patient organization that provides neuropathy patients with medical resources necessary to improve their quality of life, today celebrated the fourth annual “Neuropathy Action Awareness Day” in Sacramento. The event brought together hundreds of patients and caregivers from all over the state to access the latest medical news on neuropathy from experts in the field.

“There are an estimated 20 million neuropathy sufferers in the United States, and that does not include those who continue to suffer because they are un- or misdiagnosed,” said California State Assemblymember Mary Hayashi. “It is critical that neuropathy patients, healthcare providers and elected officials continue to further neuropathy education and raise awareness so that patients in pain seek early and ongoing treatment.”

As part of Neuropathy Action Awareness Day, physicians, medical professionals, government officials and patients provided attendees with information on cutting-edge treatments, understanding your healthcare rights, and how to appeal decisions by health insurers that deny access to treatments that alleviate neuropathic pain.

“Insufficient life-sustaining treatments continue to be the norm for patients in the U.S. suffering from neuropathy,” says Dustin Corcoran, California Medical Association CEO and NAF board member. “An active and robust forum where patients share information, learn to become their own advocates and collaborate with their doctors will improve both the healthcare delivery system and the quality of life of neuropathy patients.”

Neuropathy is a condition that results when nerves that connect to the brain and spinal cord from the rest of the body are damaged or diseased. There are more than 100 kinds of peripheral nerve disorders. They can affect one nerve or many nerves. This includes injury of nerves to muscles (motor nerves), nerves from the skin (sensory nerves), and/or nerves to the gut and other internal organs (autonomic nerves).

## **About the Neuropathy Action Foundation**

The Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is dedicated to ensuring neuropathy patients obtain the necessary resources, information and tools to access individualized treatment to improve their quality of life. The NAF increases awareness among physicians, the general public and public policy officials that neuropathy can potentially be a serious, widespread and disabling condition, which may be treatable when appropriate medical care is provided. [www.neuropathyaction.org](http://www.neuropathyaction.org)

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