

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 159

To designate the month of November in 1993 and 1994 as “National Hospice Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1993

Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. DELAURO, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate the month of November in 1993 and 1994 as “National Hospice Month”.

Whereas hospice care has been demonstrated to be a humanitarian way for terminally ill patients to approach the end of their lives in comfort with appropriate, competent, and compassionate care in an environment of personal individuality and dignity;

Whereas hospice advocates care for the patient and family by attending to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and specifically, the pain and grief they experience;

Whereas hospice care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, psy-

chological and spiritual counselors, and community volunteers trained in the hospice concept of care;

Whereas hospice has become a full partner in the Nation's health care system;

Whereas the enactment of a permanent medicare hospice benefit and an optional medicaid hospice benefit makes it possible for many more Americans to have the opportunity to elect to receive hospice care;

Whereas private insurance carriers and employers have recognized the value of hospice care by the inclusion of hospice benefits in health care coverage packages; and

Whereas there remains a great need to increase public awareness of the benefits of hospice care: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That the month of November in 1993 and 1994 is des-
 4 ignated as "National Hospice Month". The President is
 5 requested to issue a proclamation calling upon all govern-
 6 ment agencies, the health care community, appropriate
 7 private organizations, and people of the United States to
 8 observe each of those months with appropriate forums,
 9 programs and activities designed to encourage national
 10 recognition of and support for hospice care as a humane
 11 response to the needs of the terminally ill and as a viable
 12 component of the health care system in this country.

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