

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 484

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to epilepsy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2002

Ms. BROWN of Florida (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. CAPPES, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FROST, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HYDE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. LAMPSON, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MURTHA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TANNER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. WOOLSEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to epilepsy.

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition affecting 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 25,000,000 Americans (1 in every 10) will have at least one seizure during their lives;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will have developed epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that the burden of disease for people with epilepsy is comparable to that experienced by people with cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to a normal life, affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas the stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination and isolates people with seizure disorders from mainstream life;

Whereas in spite of these obstacles, epileptics can live healthy and productive lives and go on to make significant contributions to society;

Whereas November 2002 would be an appropriate month to carry out activities to increase the awareness of the public and of governmental entities regarding epilepsy; and

Whereas we must ensure that people with epilepsy in underserved and unserved areas of the country have access to appropriate care, and to this end it is essential that the epilepsy program at the Health Resources and Services Administration receive initial funding to create demonstration projects to improve access to services in those communities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) a National Epilepsy Awareness Month
4 should be established; and

5 (2) the President should issue a proclamation
6 calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
7 serve the month with appropriate ceremonies and ac-
8 tivities.

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