

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 492

Supporting the goals and ideals of Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and Melanoma Day, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and Melanoma Day, and for other purposes.

Whereas in 2004, more than 1,000,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States;

Whereas over half of all new cases of cancer are forms of skin cancer;

Whereas approximately 80 percent of all new cases of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, while 16 percent are squamous cell carcinoma and 4 percent are melanoma;

Whereas both basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma have a better than 95 percent cure rate if detected and treated early;

Whereas in 2004, it is estimated that there will be 95,880 new cases of melanoma in the United States, a four percent increase from 2003;

Whereas in 2004, approximately 10,250 people will die of skin cancer in the United States, 7,910 from melanoma and 2,340 from other skin cancers;

Whereas one person dies of melanoma nearly every hour;

Whereas 1 in 37 Americans have a risk of developing melanoma in their lifetime;

Whereas older caucasian males have the highest mortality rates from melanoma;

Whereas melanoma is more common than any non-skin cancer among women between 25 and 29 years of age;

Whereas excessive exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of the sun is the most important preventable cause of melanoma;

Whereas other possible causes of melanoma include genetic factors and immune system deficiencies;

Whereas melanoma is highly curable when detected in its earliest stages, with an average five-year survival rate of 96 percent if the melanoma has not spread beyond the outer layers of the skin at the time of detection;

Whereas in 1985, the American Academy of Dermatology designated the month of May as Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and in 1995, the Academy designated the first Monday in May as Melanoma Monday; and

Whereas Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and Melanoma Monday help raise public aware-

ness of the importance of sun safety and skin cancer detection and prevention: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Melanoma/
4 Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month and
5 Melanoma Day; and

6 (2) urges the people of the United States to
7 protect themselves from the dangers of ultraviolet
8 exposure, to conduct a regular self-examination of
9 the skin to detect changes in its appearance, and to
10 obtain an annual skin cancer screening.

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