

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 267

Designating 2004 as “The Year of Polio Awareness”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Mr. SPECTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating 2004 as “The Year of Polio Awareness”.

Whereas 2004 is the 50th anniversary of the successful nationwide trial of the injectable killed polio vaccine that included “polio pioneer” children;

Whereas the injectable polio vaccines eliminated naturally occurring polio cases in the United States but have not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world;

Whereas as few as 57 percent of American children receive all doses of necessary vaccines during childhood, including the polio vaccine;

Whereas the success of the polio vaccines has caused people to forget the 1,630,000 Americans born before the development of the vaccines who had polio during the epidemics in the middle of the 20th century;

Whereas at least 70 percent of paralytic polio survivors, and 40 percent of nonparalytic polio survivors, are developing post-polio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling symptoms that occur up to 35 years after the poliovirus attack, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing;

Whereas 2004 is the 130th anniversary of the diagnosis of the first case of post-polio sequelae and the 20th anniversary of the creation of the International Post-Polio Task Force;

Whereas research and clinical work by members of the International Post-Polio Task Force have discovered that post-polio sequelae can be treated, and even prevented, if polio survivors are taught to conserve energy and use assistive devices to stop damaging and killing the reduced number of overworked, polio virus-damaged neurons in the spinal cord and brain that survived the polio attack;

Whereas many medical professionals, and polio survivors, do not know of the existence of post-polio sequelae, or of the available treatments; and

Whereas the mission of the International Post-Polio Task Force includes educating medical professionals and the 20,000,000 polio survivors in the world about post-polio sequelae through the international post-polio letter campaign, television public service announcements provided by the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting System Company, and a continuing plot about polio and post-polio sequelae on the National Broadcasting Company television series “American Dreams”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) recognizes the need for every American  
3 child to be vaccinated against polio;

4               (2) recognizes the 1,630,000 Americans who  
5 survived polio, their new battle with post-polio  
6 sequelae, and the need for education and appropriate  
7 medical care;

8               (3) requests that every State proclaim 2004 as  
9 “The Year of Polio Awareness” to promote vaccina-  
10 tion and post-polio sequelae education and treat-  
11 ment; and

12              (4) requests that the President convene a White  
13 House Polio Awareness Summit, with members of  
14 the International Post-Polio Task Force and all ap-  
15 propriate departments and agencies, to take imme-  
16 diate action to educate—

17                       (A) the people of the United States about  
18 the need for polio vaccination; and

19                       (B) the polio survivors and the medical  
20 professionals in the United States about the  
21 cause and treatment of post-polio sequelae.

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