

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 227

Designating September 2009 as “Tay-Sachs Awareness Month”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2009

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

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## RESOLUTION

Designating September 2009 as “Tay-Sachs Awareness  
Month”.

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease is a rare, genetic disorder that causes destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord due to the poor functioning of an enzyme called hexosaminidase A;

Whereas there is no proven treatment or cure for Tay-Sachs disease and the disease is always fatal in children;

Whereas the disorder was named after Warren Tay, an ophthalmologist from the United Kingdom, and Bernard Sachs, a neurologist from the United States, both of whom contributed to the discovery of the disease in the 1880s;

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease often affects families with no prior history of the disease;

Whereas approximately 1 in 27 Ashkenazi Jews, 1 in 30 Louisianan Cajuns, 1 in 30 French Canadians, 1 in 50 Irish Americans, and 1 in every 250 people are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, which means approximately 1,500,000 people in the United States are carriers;

Whereas unaffected carriers of the disease possess the recessive gene that can trigger the disease in future generations;

Whereas, if both parents of a child are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, there is a 1 in 4 chance that the child will develop Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas a simple and inexpensive blood test can determine if an individual is a carrier of Tay-Sachs disease, and all people in the United States, especially those people who are members of high-risk populations, should be screened; and

Whereas raising awareness of Tay-Sachs disease is the best way to fight this horrific disease: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate designates September  
2 2009 as “Tay-Sachs Awareness Month”.

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