

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 285

Expressing support for designation of June 2011 as “National Aphasia Awareness Month” and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. DOYLE) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of June 2011 as “National Aphasia Awareness Month” and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia.

Whereas aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage that typically results from a stroke;

Whereas aphasia can also occur with other neurological disorders, such as a brain tumor;

Whereas many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in the right leg and right arm, usually due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language and movement on the right side of the body;

Whereas the effects of aphasia may include a loss of, or reduction in, the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and

write, but the intelligence of a person with aphasia remains intact;

Whereas according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, ranking behind heart disease and cancer;

Whereas stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that there are approximately 5,000,000 stroke survivors in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that people in the United States suffer approximately 750,000 strokes per year, with about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the strokes resulting in aphasia;

Whereas according to the NINDS, aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that more than 200,000 people in the United States acquire aphasia each year;

Whereas the National Aphasia Association is a unique organization that strives to promote public education, research, rehabilitation, and support services for the general public, people with aphasia, and aphasia caregivers throughout the United States;

Whereas as an advocacy organization for people with aphasia and their caregivers, the National Aphasia Association envisions a world that recognizes the “silent” disability of aphasia and provides opportunity and fulfillment for people affected by aphasia; and

Whereas June 2011 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Aphasia Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of “National Apha-
3 sia Awareness Month”;

4 (2) supports efforts to increase awareness of
5 aphasia;

6 (3) recognizes that strokes, a primary cause of
7 aphasia, are the third largest cause of death and dis-
8 ability in the United States;

9 (4) acknowledges that aphasia deserves more
10 attention and study to find new solutions for individ-
11 uals experiencing aphasia and their caregivers;

12 (5) supports efforts to make the voices of peo-
13 ple with aphasia heard, because people with aphasia
14 are often unable to communicate with others; and

15 (6) encourages all people in the United States
16 to observe National Aphasia Awareness Month with
17 appropriate events and activities.

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