

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 457

Expressing support for the designation of November 9, 2021, as “National Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of November 9, 2021, as “National Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day”.

Whereas microtia is a congenital anomaly, affecting the outer ear, where the ear does not fully develop during the first trimester of pregnancy;

Whereas microtia is often accompanied by aural atresia, which is the absence or closure of the external auditory ear canal resulting in hearing loss;

Whereas an estimated 750,000 people worldwide have microtia;

Whereas microtia is diagnosed at birth, affecting 1 ear or both ears, but there is no understanding as to why microtia occurs;

Whereas aural atresia is usually diagnosed at birth, affecting 1 ear or both ears, but in some cases may not be recognized until later in life;

Whereas doctors and nurses may be well versed in the conditions and quickly educate and prepare parents;

Whereas, in certain settings, the conditions are rare enough that misinformation or lack of information quickly evaporates any remaining sense of celebration that accompanies a birth; and

Whereas living with facial challenges such as craniofacial microsomia and hearing loss, as well as the longing for social acceptance, are some of the daily concerns for individuals who are born with microtia or aural atresia: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) expresses support for the designation of No-  
3       vember 9, 2021, as “National Microtia and Atresia  
4       Awareness Day”;

5               (2) encourages each person of the United  
6       States—

7               (A) to celebrate the community that is  
8       made up of not only children and adults with  
9       microtia or aural atresia, but families, teachers,  
10      advocates, and medical professionals from  
11      around the world who foster awareness and as-  
12      sistance; and

13              (B) to help promote public awareness of  
14      microtia, aural atresia, and the hope that fu-

1           ture generations of families will leave the hos-  
2           pital equipped with more answers than ques-  
3           tions, along with their dream for their child in-  
4           tact;

5           (3) supports efforts to remove unnecessary bar-  
6           riers and replace them with resources and tools that  
7           aim to eliminate bullying and clear the way for an  
8           even more successful future for those with microtia  
9           or atresia;

10          (4) encourages Federal, State, and local policy-  
11          makers to work together—

12                (A) to raise awareness about microtia or  
13                atresia;

14                (B) to improve proper diagnosis of  
15                microtia or atresia; and

16                (C) to support advancements in technology  
17                that improve the lives of those with microtia  
18                and aural atresia; and

19          (5) encourages the President to issue a procla-  
20          mation calling upon the people of the United States  
21          to observe the day with appropriate awareness and  
22          educational activities.

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