

Public Law 99-458
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

Oct. 8, 1986

[S.J. Res. 202]

Designating October 1986 as "American Liver Foundation National Liver Awareness Month".

- Whereas there are more than one hundred liver diseases which are progressively debilitating and often fatal;
- Whereas liver diseases claim fifty thousand lives annually and are the fourth leading cause of death of Americans between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five;
- Whereas liver diseases strike infants, children, adolescents, and adults, regardless of sex, race, or economic status;
- Whereas there are no known causes, effective treatments (other than liver transplants), or cures for the vast majority of liver diseases;
- Whereas there are many conditions which can lead to liver diseases, including congenital or inherited abnormalities, severe reactions to drugs, prolonged exposure to environmental toxins, parasitic and other diseases, as well as alcoholism;
- Whereas people with a liver disease suffer not only physically from the disease but also emotionally from the unjust stigma placed on them due to the common, but mistaken, notion that liver disease is caused only by alcoholism;
- Whereas the American Liver Foundation is the only national organization to focus on the full array of liver diseases;
- Whereas the Foundation is a network of volunteers, families, researchers, and health care professionals located throughout the United States, dedicated to funding and increasing research to find the causes, treatments, cures, and ways to prevent these devastating diseases; and
- Whereas the Foundation is committed to promoting the health of Americans by increasing public awareness of all conditions which can lead to a liver disease, providing health and therapy information and education programs about liver diseases for lay persons and professionals, and supporting and enhancing the quality of life for those individuals and their families who must cope with a liver disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That October 1986 is designated as "American Liver Foundation National Liver Awareness Month", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—

- (1) learn more about the liver and how to prevent liver diseases;

- (2) support the search for the causes and possible cures for liver diseases;
- (3) aid those who suffer from the crushing physical, psychological, and financial burden of a liver disease; and
- (4) observe such month with other appropriate activities.

Approved October 8, 1986.

Whereas the incidence and prevalence of liver diseases in the United States presents a significant health problem; and whereas epidemiologic studies in an industrialized country showing widespread distribution and risk factors which result in such serious deformity, contortions, malfunctioning organs, mental infirmities, physical deformities, and congenital anomalies in both humans and animals; and whereas it is the policy of the United States to assist and support research and other activities which are related to the diagnosis and treatment of such diseases; and whereas the Nation faces a continuing need to support innovative research into the causes, treatment, and cure of liver diseases; and whereas it is appropriate to focus the Nation's attention upon the plight of epidemiologic studies centers and upon the continuing efforts of epidemiologic studies centers to further the knowledge of the causes and forms of hepatocellular carcinoma; and whereas the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled first the week of December 1, 1984 through December 7, 1985, is designated the first Epidemiologic Studies Awareness Week, and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the citizens of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Approved October 8, 1986

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 202:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

- Vol. 131 (1985): Nov. 18, considered and passed Senate.
- Vol. 132 (1986): Sept. 18, considered and passed House, amended.
Sept. 29, Senate concurred in House amendments.