

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 410

To authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating October 1994 as “National Spina Bifida Prevention Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

Mr. BREWSTER introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating October 1994 as “National Spina Bifida Prevention Month”.

Whereas spina bifida is the most frequently occurring and permanently disabling birth defect of newborns, affecting approximately one of every one thousand pregnancies in the United States;

Whereas the Spina Bifida Association of America supports the United States Public Health Service’s recommendation that all women of childbearing age consume 0.4 milligram of folic acid daily in order to reduce the incidence of spina bifida and other neural tube defects;

Whereas between 1980 and 1989, 18,000 children were born with spina bifida in the United States and of that number 13,500 have survived;

Whereas spina bifida is a birth defect resulting from the failure of the spine to close properly during the first month of pregnancy;

Whereas although most of the March of Dimes and Easter Seal poster children have spina bifida, many people across this Nation have not heard of the defect and its debilitating consequences for children;

Whereas only a few cities in the United States have proper care centers and specialized professionals that can provide the most effective and aggressive treatment for children and adults with spina bifida; and

Whereas an increase in the national awareness of spina bifida may stimulate the interest and concern of the American people, which may lead, in turn, to increased research into the needs of individuals with spina bifida and the prevention of spina bifida: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the month of October 1994 is designated “National
- 4 Spina Bifida Month”, and the President is authorized and
- 5 requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people
- 6 of the United States to observe that month with appro-
- 7 priate ceremonies and activities.