

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 1 in every 12 Americans will suffer at least 1 seizure;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will develop epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrated that the hardships imposed by epilepsy are comparable to those imposed by cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to leading a normal life by affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas uncontrollable seizures in a child can create multiple problems affecting the child's development, education, socialization, and daily life activities;

Whereas the social stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination, and isolates people who suffer from seizure disorders from mainstream life;

Whereas a significant number of people with epilepsy may lack access to medical care for the treatment of the disease;

Whereas in spite of these formidable obstacles, people with epilepsy can live healthy and productive lives and make significant contributions to society;

Whereas November is an appropriate month to designate as “National Epilepsy Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” would help to focus attention on, and increase understanding of, epilepsy and those people who suffer from it: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3            (1) supports the goals and ideals of a “National  
4        Epilepsy Awareness Month”;

5            (2) requests the President to issue a proclama-  
6        tion declaring a “National Epilepsy Awareness  
7        Month”;

8            (3) calls upon the American people to observe  
9        “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” with appro-  
10        priate programs and activities; and

1           (4) urges support for epilepsy research pro-  
2           grams at the National Institutes of Health and at  
3           the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Passed the Senate June 12, 2003.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. CON. RES. 48**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Supporting the goals and ideals of “National Epilepsy Awareness Month” and urging support for epilepsy research and service programs.