

**Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States; (Referred to House Committee after being Received from Senate)**

SCON 48 RFH

108th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
**S. CON. RES. 48**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**June 16, 2003**

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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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.

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

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That*  
Congress--

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of a 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month';
- (2) requests the President to issue a proclamation declaring a 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month';
- (3) calls upon the American people to observe 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month' with appropriate programs and activities; and
- (4) urges support for epilepsy research programs at the National Institutes of Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Passed the Senate June 12, 2003.