

NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH—
SUPPORT

Nov. 19, 2003
[S. Con. Res. 48]

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.

Agreed to November 19, 2003.

Nov. 20, 2003
[H. Con. Res. 209]

UNITED STATES-ADRIATIC CHARTER—SUPPORT

Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Europe by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, Albania Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter “reaffirms our partners’ dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies * * * [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions * * * [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family”; and

Whereas 75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for their continued efforts to become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

(2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to