

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 84

To designate the month of May 1999, as “National Alpha₁ Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 1999

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HATCH, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. MACK, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

To designate the month of May 1999, as “National Alpha₁ Awareness Month”.

Whereas alpha₁-antitrypsin deficiency (A1AD) is the most common lethal single gene defect in the United States;

Whereas A1AD, having been identified only since 1963, is as common as cystic fibrosis, but is neither well known, nor well understood by many physicians and is virtually unknown by the general public;

Whereas A1AD is seen as a liver disease in infants and young children, as a lung or liver disease in young adults, and may be misdiagnosed as asthma, chronic bronchitis

or smoker's emphysema due to lack of knowledge or understanding about this disease;

Whereas A1AD is particularly devastating to families since it strikes during the peak earning and child rearing years;

Whereas 80,000 to 100,000 persons in the United States are affected by the disease while only 5 percent have been identified; and

Whereas liver and lung transplants are sought by many individuals suffering from A1AD, detection screenings, educational conferences and other scheduled events will help raise awareness for early identification and organ donation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of May 1999 as “National Alpha₁ Awareness Month”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

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