

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 246

Supporting the goals and ideals of World Glaucoma Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of World Glaucoma Day.

Whereas World Glaucoma Day will be celebrated on March 12, 2010;

Whereas four percent of the global population, including infants, children, and the elderly, are affected by glaucoma;

Whereas glaucoma disproportionately affects underserved minority populations, with African-Americans having a three times greater risk of developing this disease than Whites, and it is the leading cause of irreversible vision loss in African-Americans and Hispanics;

Whereas research shows that an estimated 60,500,000 people worldwide will be living with either angle closure glaucoma or primary open angle glaucoma in 2010;

Whereas awareness is absolutely crucial, as glaucoma often has no symptoms until vision loss occurs, and it is estimated that, in the United States, more than half of glaucoma cases remain undiagnosed, and 90 percent of glaucoma cases are undiagnosed in developing countries;

Whereas glaucoma is the second leading cause of preventable vision loss in the United States and it is the leading cause of permanent blindness worldwide;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that there are currently 4,500,000 people who have been blinded due to glaucoma, and this number will rise to 11,200,000 by 2020;

Whereas early detection and treatment of glaucoma is essential to halting or slowing down the progression towards severe visual impairment or blindness; and

Whereas World Glaucoma Day offers an opportunity to educate patients with glaucoma and those at risk for the disease that there are means for detecting and treating it to save sight, by raising awareness and providing helpful tips about the importance of regular screening, early diagnosis, and appropriate treatment: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

4 (A) World Glaucoma Day provides a spe-
5 cial opportunity to educate the people of the
6 United States about the dangers of glaucoma
7 and to take steps to encourage regular
8 screenings, early diagnosis, and appropriate

1 treatment to prevent severe visual impairment
2 or blindness;

3 (B) it is appropriate to acknowledge that
4 4,500,000 people have been blinded due to glau-
5 coma and regular screenings will reduce the
6 number of undiagnosed cases and, in combina-
7 tion with appropriate treatment, prevent the
8 number of those blinded by glaucoma from ris-
9 ing to 11,200,000 people in 2020;

10 (C) the American Glaucoma Society should
11 be recognized and applauded for its hard work
12 in raising awareness of the need for regular
13 screenings, early diagnosis, and proper treat-
14 ment of glaucoma and its efforts to decrease
15 the incidences of undiagnosed and untreated
16 glaucoma;

17 (D) the National Eye Institute (NEI)
18 should be recognized and applauded for its con-
19 tinuing dedication to researching causes of
20 glaucoma; and

21 (E) the Friends of the Congressional Glau-
22 coma Foundation should be recognized and ap-
23 plauded for screening over 300,000 people in
24 the United States for glaucoma and other eye
25 diseases; and

1 (2) Congress strongly recommends that national
2 and community health organizations, colleges and
3 universities, and the media—

4 (A) promote, through education, awareness
5 of the need for regular screenings and early di-
6 agnosis of glaucoma and strategies to decrease
7 the undiagnosed and untreated cases; and

8 (B) support the goals and ideals of World
9 Glaucoma Day.

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