

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 408

Designating April 2016 as “National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating April 2016 as “National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month”.

Whereas congenital diaphragmatic hernia (referred to in this preamble as “CDH”) occurs in individuals in which the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs to migrate into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth;

Whereas the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes CDH as a birth defect;

Whereas the majority of CDH patients suffer from under-developed lungs or poor pulmonary function;

Whereas babies born with CDH endure extended hospital stays in intensive care with multiple surgeries;

Whereas CDH patients often endure long-term complications, such as pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary hypoplasia, asthma, gastrointestinal reflux, feeding disorders, and developmental delays;

Whereas CDH survivors sometimes endure long-term mechanical ventilation dependency, skeletal malformations, supplemental oxygen dependency, enteral and parenteral nutrition, and hypoxic brain injury;

Whereas CDH is treated through mechanical ventilation, a heart and lung bypass (commonly known as “extracorporeal membrane oxygenation”), machines, and surgical repair;

Whereas surgical repair is often not a permanent solution for CDH and can lead to reherniation and require additional surgery;

Whereas CDH is diagnosed in utero in less than 50 percent of cases;

Whereas infants born with CDH have a high mortality rate, ranging from 20 to 60 percent, depending on the severity of the defect and interventions available at delivery;

Whereas CDH has a rate of occurrence of 1 in every 3,836 live births worldwide;

Whereas in the United States, CDH affects approximately 1,088 babies each year;

Whereas since 2000, CDH has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide;

Whereas CDH does not discriminate based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status;

Whereas the cause of CDH is unknown;

Whereas the average CDH survivor will face postnatal care that totals not less than \$100,000; and

Whereas Federal support for CDH research at the National Institutes of Health for 2015 is estimated to be not more than \$3,300,000: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates April 2016 as “National Con-
3 genital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month”;

4 (2) encourages that steps should be taken—

5 (A) to raise awareness of and increase
6 public knowledge about congenital diaphragm-
7 matic hernia (referred to in this resolving
8 clause as “CDH”);

9 (B) to inform all people of the United
10 States about the dangers of CDH, especially
11 groups of people that may be disproportionately
12 affected by CDH or have lower survival rates;

13 (C) to disseminate information on the im-
14 portance of quality neonatal care of CDH pa-
15 tients;

16 (D) to promote quality prenatal care and
17 ultrasounds to detect CDH in utero; and

18 (E) to support research funding of CDH—

19 (i) to improve screening and treat-
20 ment for CDH;

1 (ii) to discover the causes of CDH;

2 and

3 (iii) to develop a cure for CDH; and

4 (3) calls on the people of the United States, in-
5 terest groups, and affected persons—

6 (A) to promote awareness of CDH;

7 (B) to take an active role in the fight
8 against this devastating birth defect; and

9 (C) to observe National Congenital Dia-
10 phragmatic Hernia Awareness Month with ap-
11 propriate ceremonies and activities.

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