

1 HR19  
2 179233-1  
3 By Representative Melton  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 17-AUG-16

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8 RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS CHIARI  
9 MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, it is imperative that we promote advocacy,  
12 education, and awareness for a serious neurological disorder  
13 known as Chiari Malformation (CM), which affects the  
14 well-being of more than 300,000 United States citizens; the  
15 increased use of diagnostic imaging reveals that Chiari  
16 Malformation may occur much more often than the widely held  
17 estimate of the past that stipulated the condition occurs in  
18 about one in every 1,000 births; and

19 WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are structural defects  
20 in the cerebellum, the area of the brain that controls  
21 balance; primary Chiari Malformations occur during fetal  
22 development as a result of genetic mutations or lack of proper  
23 maternal nutrition, and secondary Chiari Malformations occur  
24 later in life if spinal fluid is drained excessively from the  
25 lumbar or thoracic areas of the spine either due to injury,  
26 exposure to harmful substances, or infection; and

1           WHEREAS, first identified in the 1890's by Austrian  
2 pathologist, Professor Hans Chiari, Chiari Malformations are  
3 classified into four types according to the severity of the  
4 disorder and the parts of the brain that protrude into the  
5 spinal canal; and

6           WHEREAS, many affected by Chiari Malformations fail  
7 to exhibit any symptoms and only discover they have the  
8 condition during the course of diagnosis or treatment for  
9 another disorder; some children born with the disorder may not  
10 show symptoms until adolescence or adulthood, if at all;  
11 Chiari Malformations occur more often in women than in men;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, the National Institute of Neurological  
14 Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health  
15 strives to determine the cause of Chiari Malformations, along  
16 with alternative surgical options, to deliver the most  
17 effective treatment and preventive plans for those affected by  
18 the condition; now therefore,

19           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
20 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize the Month  
21 of September 2016 as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month, in  
22 the State of Alabama, and urge the increase of advocacy,  
23 education, and awareness regarding this disorder.