

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2017 as American Stroke Month.

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability and is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 133,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, projections show that by 2030, an additional 3.4 million U.S. adults eighteen and older will have had a stroke, a 20.5% increase since 2012, with the highest increase for Hispanic men; and

WHEREAS, the medical costs for treating stroke are expected to triple, from \$71.6 billion to \$184.1 billion, by 2030; and

WHEREAS, more than 85 million Americans have high blood pressure, which is the leading controllable risk factor for stroke; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., the stroke mortality rate increased by 3% between 2014 and 2015, after years of decline; and

WHEREAS, the F.A.S.T. acronym helps people to remember and respond to the warning signs and symptoms of stroke: Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, Time to call emergency services; and

WHEREAS, additional stroke warning signs and symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headaches with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, new and effective treatments have been developed which, if administered promptly, can treat and minimize the severity and damaging effect of strokes; and

WHEREAS, much more research and education is needed to help Americans prevent and treat strokes; and

WHEREAS, during stroke month, the American Stroke Association's Together to End Stroke initiative encourages Americans year-round to manage their blood pressure, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign of a stroke.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 2017 as American Stroke Month and hereby urges all citizens of the state to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of stroke and, on first sign of stroke, to dial 911 immediately so that we might begin to reduce the devastating effects of strokes on the citizens of our great state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE