

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

WHEREAS, the members of the Missouri Senate are fully cognizant of the many facets and aspects relating to public health; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a prevalent cardiovascular disease that imposes a tremendous cost to victims and their families, the health care system, and society at large; and

WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death as well as a leading cause of long-term disability in the United States, killing more than 134,000 people nationwide and more than 3,200 people in Missouri each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the total cost of cardiovascular diseases in the United States was estimated to be \$444 billion, with treatment of these diseases accounting for about \$1 of every \$6 spent on health care in this country; and

WHEREAS, as the American population ages, it is likely that the economic impact of cardiovascular diseases on our nation's health care system will become even greater; and

WHEREAS, Americans are more aware of the risk factors and warning signs for stroke than in the past, but one-third of adults cannot identify any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat), "non-valvular atrial fibrillation" and "valvular atrial fibrillation"; and

WHEREAS, non-valvular atrial fibrillation accounts for approximately 95% of all atrial fibrillation, and it is estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States, who have five times greater risk of stroke; and

WHEREAS, non-valvular atrial fibrillation alone is estimated to cost \$6.65 billion per year, with nearly 75% of the costs directly and indirectly associated with hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, while new and effective treatments have developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of strokes, much more research is needed; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationwide as Stroke Awareness Month:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby join with national state stroke awareness and prevention organizations in encouraging all Missouri citizens to engage in appropriate programs, activities, and events in observance of Stroke Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to the Department of Health and Senior Services.