**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009 AS “EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF EPILEPSY.

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in South Carolina to increase our State’s awareness and understanding of epilepsy, or seizure disorder; and

Whereas, epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. A seizure occurs when a brief, strong surge of electrical activity affects part or all of the brain and manifests itself in numerous ways ranging from convulsions to blank stares; and

Whereas, one in ten individuals will have a seizure sometime during his or her life. Presently, more than three million people in the United States have some form of epilepsy, and between seventy thousand and eighty thousand of them are South Carolinians; and

Whereas, a disorder that knows no age or racial boundaries, epilepsy is diagnosed nationally in about two hundred thousand new cases every year; and

Whereas, the Epilepsy Foundation of South Carolina observes Epilepsy Awareness Month each year in November and presents a public education campaign to raise awareness of seizure disorders and their acceptance and to teach helpful first aid and prevention; and

Whereas, activities during this month include a campaign to encourage respect for young people with epilepsy, who are particularly vulnerable to prejudice and ill treatment on the part of their peers; public‑service announcements by celebrities; and presentations by local volunteers aimed at dispelling myths about epilepsy, teaching proper seizure first aid, and improving the quality of life for young people with epilepsy; and

Whereas, the General Assembly commends the Epilepsy Foundation of South Carolina for its fine efforts toward educating the public on the often misunderstood issue of seizure disorders, and the members are pleased to cooperate in the accomplishing of the foundation’s mission. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, designate the month of November 2009 as “Epilepsy Awareness Month” in South Carolina and encourage community awareness and understanding of epilepsy.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Epilepsy Foundation of South Carolina.

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