

Whereas subnormal intelligence is manifested in 41 to 71 percent of patients with Dandy-Walker syndrome;

Whereas failure to diagnose Dandy-Walker syndrome with hydrocephalus in a Neonate or a child can cause serious neurologic complications;

Whereas Dandy-Walker syndrome is named after former University of New Mexico neurosurgeon and professor Arthur E. Walker (1907–1995) and Walter E. Dandy (1883–1941), who first described the disorder in 1914; and

Whereas there are 2 known researchers dedicated to Dandy-Walker Syndrome in the United States and additional investigators are needed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress commends the Director of the National Institutes of Health for working with leading scientists and researchers to organize the first National Institutes of Health conference on hydrocephalus in September 2005 and the Inaugural “Cerebellar Development: Bench to Bedside International Conference” in November 2006; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Director of the National Institutes of Health should continue the current collaboration, with respect to Dandy-Walker syndrome, among the National Human Genome Research Institute, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Office of Rare Diseases;

(B) further research into the epidemiology, diagnosis, pathophysiology, disease burden, and improved treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus should be conducted and supported; and

(C) public awareness and professional education regarding Dandy-Walker research should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Dandy-Walker Alliance and the Hydrocephalus Association.

Agreed to September 22, 2008.

NATIONAL HEAT STROKE AWARENESS MONTH—
SUPPORT

Sept. 22, 2008
[H. Con. Res. 296]

Whereas heat stroke is a medical emergency that can be fatal if not properly and promptly treated, and 50 percent of those with heat stroke die from it;

Whereas children absorb more heat from a hot environment because they have greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than adults;

Whereas the smaller the child, the faster he or she can overheat;

Whereas children and adolescents may have a reduced ability to dissipate heat through sweating;

Whereas children and adolescents frequently do not have the physiological drive to drink enough fluids to replenish sweat losses during prolonged exercise;

Whereas youth athletes may be more easily distracted by teammates and spectators when given the opportunity to rest and rehydrate;

Whereas a recent study found that 70 percent of afterschool athletes arrive on the playing field already dehydrated;

Whereas heat-induced illness is one of the most preventable sports ailments and parents, young athletes, and coaches need to understand the physiological factors that increase the risk for heat-related illness and take steps to prevent it;

Whereas 13-year-old Kendrick Fincher from Rogers, Arkansas, collapsed during an August pre-season football practice, was rushed to the hospital, and for the next 18 days his family waited anxiously for him to regain consciousness, tragically never regained consciousness, and died on August 25, 1995, from multi-system organ failure as a result of heat stroke;

Whereas Kendrick's parents, Rhonda and Mike Fincher, founded the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation in honor of their son, with the aim to raise awareness of the potentially deadly consequences of dehydration for student athletes and to provide schools with the information and equipment needed to ensure other students do not suffer from heat stroke;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation has distributed more than 130,000 water bottles and heat illness prevention pamphlets to children and athletes throughout the United States;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation oversees consultation with school district athletic programs to ensure they have procedures in place to prevent heat illness and dehydration;

Whereas the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation provides heat stroke awareness and steps for prevention at local health fairs, community events, and the Annual Youth Run through "cool huts", misting stations, and free ice water;

Whereas Gatorade Company joined forces with the National Football League to lead a nationwide "Beat the Heat" campaign aimed at educating parents and football coaches about the importance of hydration in order to keep athletes safe in the hot summer months; and

Whereas Gatorade Company and the National Football League held Gatorade Donation Days at training camps to raise money to raise awareness of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Heat Stroke Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about heat stroke;

(B) the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation should be applauded for its efforts in promoting awareness about heat stroke; and

(C) policymakers, parents, coaches, student athletes, not-for-profit organizations, and other members of the

community should work to increase awareness and prevention of heat stroke; and

(2) Congress urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media, through National Heat Stroke Awareness Month to promote the awareness of heat stroke.

Agreed to September 22, 2008.

NATIONAL DYSPHAGIA AWARENESS MONTH—
SUPPORT

Sept. 27, 2008
[H. Con. Res. 195]

Whereas dysphagia, or difficulty with swallowing, is a medical dysfunction that affects as many as 15,000,000 Americans;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that 1,000,000 people in the United States annually are diagnosed with dysphagia;

Whereas the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has estimated that 60,000 Americans die annually from complications associated with dysphagia;

Whereas based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mortality data, this is more than the total number of Americans dying from all forms of liver disease, kidney disease, and HIV/AIDS combined—and nearly as many as those dying from diabetes, the number 6 killer of Americans;

Whereas the most common complication arising from dysphagia is aspiration pneumonia—caused by food or saliva entering the windpipe and into the lungs;

Whereas one in 17 people will develop some form of dysphagia in their lifetime, including 50 to 75 percent of stroke patients and 60 to 75 percent of patients who undergo radiation therapy for head and neck cancer;

Whereas as many as half of all Americans over 60 will experience dysphagia at some point;

Whereas complications due to dysphagia increase health care costs by resultant hospital readmissions, emergency room visits, extended hospital stays, the necessity for long-term institutional care, and the need for expensive respiratory and nutritional support;

Whereas the cost of managing a patient with a feeding tube, which for many has been the primary treatment option for this condition, is reported to average over \$31,000 per patient per year;

Whereas the total annual cost to Medicare just for enteral feeding supplies for outpatients was more than \$670,000,000 in 2003, nearly 6 percent of the total Medicare budget for that year;

Whereas including the monies spent in hospitals, the total cost of dysphagia to the health care system is well over \$1,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the condition of dysphagia is a vastly underreported condition and not widely understood by the general public; and