

By: Wong

H.R. No. 937

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During the month of May 2003, the American Stroke
2 Association, a division of the American Heart Association, is
3 promoting an educational campaign designed to inform the public
4 about the risk factors, warning signs, and symptoms of stroke; and

5 WHEREAS, Every 45 seconds, someone in America has a stroke,
6 and every 3 minutes, someone dies of one; approximately 700,000
7 Americans experience strokes each year, and some 4.7 million
8 Americans are presently stroke survivors; the chance of having a
9 stroke before the age of 70 is 1 in 20 for both men and women; and

10 WHEREAS, A leading cause of long-term disability and the
11 third leading cause of death in the United States, strokes annually
12 result in the death or disability of more than 9,800 Texans; and

13 WHEREAS, The majority of Americans are not aware of their
14 risk factors for a stroke, nor are they aware of the signs and
15 symptoms of an impending stroke; warning signs of stroke include:
16 sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on
17 one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or
18 understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden
19 dizziness, trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination; and
20 sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

21 WHEREAS, To emphasize the vital importance of stroke victims'
22 receiving prompt medical attention, the theme for this year's
23 stroke awareness campaign is "Time = Brain"; new and effective
24 means have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and

1 damaging effects of strokes, among them t-PA, a clot-busting drug
2 that should be administered within three hours of onset of
3 symptoms; and

4 WHEREAS, With improved knowledge about the risk factors for
5 stroke, the devastating consequences of this illness, and the
6 imperative of swift medical intervention, it will be possible to
7 reduce the enormous toll that strokes take every year in American
8 lives and resources; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize May 2003 as American Heart Association
11 Stroke Awareness Month and encourage all Texans to inform
12 themselves about this major health threat so that we might begin to
13 reduce its devastating impact on the Lone Star State.