

By: Smithee

H.C.R. No. 136

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The C&S Patient Education Foundation, also known as
2 Conquer Chiari, is dedicated to improving the experiences and
3 outcomes of those suffering from Chiari malformation through
4 education, awareness, and research; and

5 WHEREAS, Affecting more than 300,000 people in the United
6 States, Chiari malformation is a serious neurological disorder that
7 occurs when the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls
8 balance, descends out of the skull and crowds the spinal cord; this
9 puts pressure on both the brain and the spine and disrupts the
10 normal flow of cerebrospinal fluid, causing a wide variety of
11 symptoms, including severe head and neck pain, trouble swallowing,
12 balance problems, sleep apnea, muscle weakness, blurred or double
13 vision, and vertigo; and

14 WHEREAS, It is estimated that Chiari occurs in approximately
15 1 in 1,000 births nationwide, but some individuals who are born with
16 the condition may not show symptoms until adolescence or adulthood,
17 if at all; many patients undergo brain surgery in an attempt to keep
18 symptoms from progressing, but surgery is not always successful;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, To date, the cause of Chiari malformation is still
21 unknown, and scientists are investigating whether the disease is a
22 congenital or genetic condition; the National Institute of
23 Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which is part of the National
24 Institutes of Health, is conducting research to better understand

1 the disease and to create improved treatment and prevention plans;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, While doctors and patients work to learn more about
4 Chiari malformation, Conquer Chiari is advocating for increased
5 public awareness of the disease and its consequences; a nonprofit
6 organization, Conquer Chiari aids the medical community and
7 maintains a website offering those affected the most comprehensive
8 source of information available; in addition, the group holds
9 annual fund-raising walks in various locations across the country;
10 this year, 44 states are hosting Conquer Chiari Walk Across America
11 events at 88 sites on September 19, 2015, and six cities in Texas
12 are among them: Amarillo, Beaumont, Burkburnett, Round Rock, San
13 Antonio, and Dallas-Fort Worth; and

14 WHEREAS, Conquer Chiari is helping to educate people about
15 this disorder while providing invaluable support to those facing
16 diagnosis and treatment, and the organization and its admirable
17 goals are indeed worthy of commendation; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby honor Conquer Chiari for its efforts in behalf of those with
20 Chiari malformation and encourage all Texans to learn more about
21 this serious health issue; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Conquer Chiari as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.