

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Tara MacInnes for her dedicated works to promote Moyamoya disease and to recognize Wednesday, May 6, 2015, as Moyamoya Disease Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Tara MacInnes, a graduate student at Southeastern Louisiana University pursuing a Master of Science in Counseling and a Moyamoya patient, has worked tirelessly since her diagnosis at the age of seventeen in 2004 to promote awareness of Moyamoya disease and help other patients in their journey; and

WHEREAS, Tara MacInnes has connected patients in over thirty countries, offering them, their family members, friends, and supporters an opportunity to celebrate life and health as they share stories to support and encourage one another recognizing the common thread, Moyamoya disease, that has brought them all together; and

WHEREAS, Tara MacInnes has unofficially declared May 6 as World Moyamoya Day and is working tirelessly to have that date become the official worldwide day to promote awareness; and

WHEREAS, Moyamoya disease is a rare disorder of the cerebrovascular system that causes arteries at the base of the brain to narrow, resulting in blocked blood flow to the brain; and

WHEREAS, to compensate for the blockage, the body forms a tangle of tiny blood vessels that resemble a "puff of smoke"; and

WHEREAS, the term Moyamoya means "puff of smoke" in Japanese, which is how the tangle appeared to Japanese doctors who first described the disorder in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Moyamoya may lead to transient ischemic attacks (TIA, commonly referred to as "mini strokes") in both children and adults, followed by muscular weakness or paralysis on one side of the body or seizures; and

WHEREAS, other symptoms of the disorder include vision problems, disturbed consciousness, reduced cognitive ability, distorted functioning of senses, involuntary movements, and aphasia, a speech problem that impairs language comprehension; and

WHEREAS, because the arteries continue to narrow, surgery is needed to prevent mental decline and recurrent strokes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tara MacInnes for her efforts in promoting Moyamoya Disease Awareness and does hereby designate Wednesday, May 6, 2015, as Moyamoya Disease Awareness Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tara MacInnes.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE