

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 884

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to designate March 2010, as "Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, deep-vein thrombosis is a common but serious medical condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in one of the large veins, usually in the lower limbs, leading to either partially or completely blocked circulation; and

WHEREAS, deep-vein thrombosis occurs in approximately two million Americans each year, and 600,000 of those are hospitalized for the condition; and

WHEREAS, a complication of deep-vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, can occur when a blood clot breaks loose from the wall of a vein and travels to the lungs, blocking the pulmonary artery or one of its branches; and

WHEREAS, even though pulmonary embolism may be the most common, preventable cause of hospital death in the United States, 200,000 individuals who develop the condition each year will die unnecessarily - more than the number of Americans who die as a result of AIDS, breast cancer, and motor vehicle accidents combined; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of deep-vein thrombosis may include pain, swelling and increased temperature, tenderness, discoloration, or redness of the affected area; however, as many as half of all episodes produce minimal symptoms or those that are completely silent; and

WHEREAS, deep-vein thrombosis can strike anyone at risk, including cancer, heart, or respiratory patients, as well as individuals with clotting disorders or inflammatory disease, individuals who are obese, or those undergoing major surgery, who remain immobile in bed; and

WHEREAS, women who take oral contraceptives or are using post menopausal hormone replacement therapy are also at risk, and pulmonary embolism is the leading cause of maternal death associated with childbirth; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by the American Public Health Association, 74% of Americans are unaware of deep-vein thrombosis, its risk factors, or the fact that it is the number one cause of unexpected hospital deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, National Broadcasting Company correspondent David Bloom died of a fatal pulmonary embolism while covering the war in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Bloom, widow of David Bloom, and more than 35 members of the Coalition to Prevent Deep-Vein Thrombosis are working to raise awareness of this silent killer; and

WHEREAS, the designation of March as "Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month" in honor of David Bloom will help raise public awareness of the dangers of this life-threatening but preventable condition; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate March 2010, as "Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Month" in Tennessee in order to raise public awareness about the immediate and long-term dangers of deep-vein thrombosis and the preventability of the condition, and urge all citizens to recognize the importance of raising awareness of deep-vein thrombosis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.