

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1078

By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to recognize the month of September 2010 as "Chiari Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance, that create pressure on the cerebellum and brainstem which may block the flow of cerebrospinal fluid to and from the brain; and

WHEREAS, the condition was first identified by German pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890s, who categorized the malformations in order of severity: types I, II, III, and IV; and

WHEREAS, the cause of Chiari Malformations is unknown, but scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or that it could be a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one member of a family; and

WHEREAS, symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred or double vision, difficulty swallowing and sleep apnea; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institute of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans; 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 the month of September 2010 as "Chiari Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

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