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Designating May 2010 as “National Brain Tumor Awareness Month:

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE/
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLUTION

Designating May 2010 as “National Brain Tumor Awareness Month”

Whereas 40,000 Americans are diagnosed with primary brain tumors each year, and 150,000 more are diagnosed with metastatic brain tumors that are the result of cancer spreading from another part of the body to the brain,

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of death from solid tumors in children under the age of 20, and are the third leading cause of death from cancer in young adults ages 20-39,

Whereas brain tumors may be either malignant or benign, but can be life-threatening in either case,

Whereas 600,000 Americans are living after a diagnosis of a brain tumor,

Whereas treatment of brain tumors is complicated by fact that there are more than 120 different types of tumors,

Whereas treatment of brain tumors presents significant challenges because of the location in an enclosed bony canal, the difficulty of delivering treatment across the blood-brain barrier, the obstacles to complete surgical removal of the tumors, and the serious edema that results when the blood-brain barrier is disrupted,

Whereas brain tumors have been described as a disease that affects the essence of “self,”

Whereas brain tumor research is supported by a number of private non-profit research foundations and by institutes at the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute and National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke,

Whereas important advances have been made in understanding brain tumors, including the genetic characterization of glioblastoma multiforme, one of the deadliest forms of brain tumor,

Whereas basic research advances may fuel research and development of new treatments, including targeted therapies,

Whereas there still remain daunting obstacles to the development of new treatments and there are no strategies for screening or early detection of brain tumors,

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of brain tumors, including the difficulties associated with research on these tumors and the opportunities for advances in brain tumor research and treatment,

Whereas May, when brain tumor advocates nationwide unite in awareness, outreach, and advocacy activities, would be an appropriate month to recognize as National Brain Tumor Awareness Month,

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That

- (1) it is the sense of the Senate/House that May should be established as National Brain Tumor Awareness Month; and
- (2) continued strong public and private investment in brain tumor research will be necessary to advance research and improve those treatments available to Americans diagnosed with brain tumors.