SR0535   LRB103 34837 ECR 64694 r

1   SENATE RESOLUTION

2   WHEREAS, Epilepsy Awareness is a nationwide effort to
3   raise awareness about and change the conversation around
4   epilepsy, seizures, and side effects as well as to improve and
5   save lives through care, advocacy, research, new therapies,
6   public health, and education; and

7   WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a brain disorder characterized by
8   recurrent and unprovoked seizures that can affect anyone at
9   any age at any time; and

10   WHEREAS, Epilepsy is also a spectrum disease comprised of
11 many diagnoses and experiences and includes a wide range of
12 seizure types, comorbidities, control, severity, and outcomes
13 that vary from person-to-person; and

14   WHEREAS, Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological
15 disorder; approximately 3.4 million people in the United
16 States live with active epilepsy, including 137,000 people in
17 the State of Illinois; and

18   WHEREAS, In the U.S., approximately more than 324,000
19 Hispanic Americans and more than 578,000 Black, non-Hispanic
20 Americans live with epilepsy, with latter more likely to be
21 diagnosed with epilepsy over their lifetime due to a variety

1   of factors, such as strokes and head injuries; for some people
2   with epilepsy, disparities in care exist that lead to worse
3   outcomes; for instance, individuals often experience
4   significant delays in obtaining an appropriate diagnosis if
5   they are American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific
6   Islander, Native Hawaiian, or a member of other indigenous
7   groups; and

8   WHEREAS, An increasing number of people are diagnosed with
9   rare epilepsies which are largely complex, severe, chronic,
10   and even life-threatening; collectively, rare epilepsies
11   account for a growing percentage of the epilepsy population;
12   and

13   WHEREAS, People with epilepsy need access to affordable,
14   comprehensive, physician-directed, and person-centered
15   healthcare; delays in accessing effective treatments increase
16   the likelihood of breakthrough seizures and related
17   complications, including injury, disability, or even Sudden
18   Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP); each year, it is thought
19   that one in 1,000 people with epilepsy die from SUDEP, and this
20   number increases drastically to one out of 150 for people
21   whose epilepsy is not controlled by treatment; and

22   WHEREAS, Many treatments are approved to treat seizures,
23   yet 30 to 40% of people with epilepsy still live with

1   uncontrolled seizures, and epilepsy-related medical costs
2   associated with uncontrolled epilepsy are two to ten times
3   higher than those of controlled epilepsy; and

4   WHEREAS, In the last year, 21% of people with epilepsy
5   have reported not being able to afford their prescription
6   medications; and

7   WHEREAS, Non-medical drivers of health, such as social,
8   economic, and environmental conditions including housing,
9   employment, food security, transportation, and education,
10   account for 80 to 90% of a person's health outcome; and

11   WHEREAS, Epilepsy and/or seizures impose an annual
12   economic burden on healthcare of $54 billion; and

13   WHEREAS, In the U.S., 470,000 children live with epilepsy
14   and 336,000 kids have at least one seizure annually; on
15   average, students with epilepsy aged 6 to 17 years old have
16   missed 11 or more days of school during the past year; and

17   WHEREAS, Protections exist for those with epilepsy in the
18   Americans with Disabilities Act and related civil rights laws;
19   despite these protections, people with epilepsy still
20   encounter discrimination in a number of areas, including
21   employment, education, and housing; therefore, be it

1   RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL

2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare November

3 2023 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the State of Illinois; and

4 be it further

5   RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

6 presented to the Epilepsy Foundation of Chicago, the Epilepsy

7 Foundation of Southern Illinois, the Danny Did Foundation, and

8 CURE.