

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 167

Supporting the designation of the week of February 26 to March 4, 2017,
as “National Spinal CSF Leak Awareness Week”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Ms. NORTON) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of the week of February 26 to
March 4, 2017, as “National Spinal CSF Leak Awareness
Week”.

Whereas spinal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak, also known as
intracranial hypotension, is an important, disabling,
underdiagnosed but treatable cause of new onset head-
ache;

Whereas cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) bathes and supports the
brain and spinal cord;

Whereas when the connective tissue known as dura that holds
CSF in around the spinal cord has a hole or tear, the
result is a loss of CSF volume;

Whereas the most common symptom is a disabling positional headache that is worse when upright and improved when lying down;

Whereas spinal CSF leaks may cause a wide range of symptoms and serious complications, including stroke, dementia, Parkinsonism, coma, and even death;

Whereas the causes of spinal CSF leaks include those that arise from trauma or medical procedures, as well as those that occur spontaneously;

Whereas the diagnosis is often missed or delayed due to low awareness by health care providers, contributing to additional suffering;

Whereas the sensitivity of diagnostic imaging is currently inadequate to confirm the diagnosis and/or locate the leak in many cases, which impacts treatment options and outcomes;

Whereas current treatment options are limited to epidural patching procedures and a range of neurosurgical procedures;

Whereas the incidence and prevalence of this disorder has been challenging to study due to underdiagnosis;

Whereas funding for research of this disorder is lacking; and

Whereas greater awareness and understanding of this disorder are vital to ensure the diagnosis, treatment, and best possible outcomes for patients: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of “National Spi-

3 nal CSF Leak Awareness Week”; and

- 1 (2) recognizes the importance of understanding
- 2 the impact of this disorder.

