

Reps. Lane, Cochran, Driskell, Faris, Hoadley, Hooker, Howrylak, Hughes, Kelly, LaVoy, Sarah Roberts, Whiteford and Wittenberg offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 345.

A resolution to declare September 23, 2016, as Chiari Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Chiari malformation is a neurological disorder where the cerebellum of the brain descends out of the skull and places pressure on the brain and the spinal cord; and

Whereas, Individuals with Chiari malformation also struggle with many other related conditions. A few of them are hydrocephalus, tethered spinal cord, intercranial hypertension, syringomyelia, and spina bifida; and

Whereas, It was estimated that Chiari malformations occurred in 1 in 1,000 births. However, now with the use of MRI's becoming more frequent, it is believed that Chiari malformation is much more prevalent; and

Whereas, There are four different types of Chiari malformations differing by the amount of the herniation protruding from the skull; and

Whereas, Chiari does not discriminate as it affects people of any age. The average age of diagnosis is in the mid-thirties. However, as pediatricians are slowly learning more about the condition, it is being found in children more frequently; and

Whereas, Chiari malformation is often considered an invisible illness. Chiarians are often not believed of their declaration of symptoms because none of them can be seen; and

Whereas, There is no cure for Chiari. For some Chiarians, there is a surgery called a posterior fossa decompression which can offer some relief of symptoms. However, this is not a cure and for many they see no relief; and

Whereas, Chiari Matters, a non-profit dedicated to the education and awareness of the Chiari malformation, was launched on September 15, 2014; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare September 23, 2016, as Chiari Awareness Day in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to help educate and support family, friends and neighbors who have been affected by Chiari. By increasing awareness of the risk factors and taking direct actions to reduce them, we can enable those who suffer from the disorder to live more peacefully; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Governor of Michigan and Director of the Department of Community Health.