

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.56

Senators Bayer, Wojno, McCann, Alexander, Polehanki, McMorrow, Ananich, Hertel, Bullock, Irwin, Moss, Brinks, Santana, Geiss, Johnson, Theis, Outman, Runestad, Victory, Lucido, Daley and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize June 2019 as Aphasia Awareness
2 Month.

3 Whereas, Aphasia is defined as an impairment of language,
4 affecting the production and/or comprehension of speech and the
5 ability to read and/or write; and

6 Whereas, It causes individuals to have trouble speaking,
7 understanding others, and the inability to process long words and
8 infrequently used words; and

9 Whereas, The National Aphasia Association estimates that

1 aphasia affects nearly two million Americans, with roughly 180,000
2 Americans developing the disorder each year; and

3 Whereas, The most common cause of aphasia is stroke, with 15
4 percent of individuals under the age of 65 experiencing aphasia
5 after their first ischemic stroke, and 43 percent of individuals
6 over the age of 85. Other causes include head injury, brain tumor,
7 or other neurological issues; and

8 Whereas, There are three types of aphasia, including
9 Wernicke's Aphasia, Broca's Aphasia, and Global Aphasia. All three
10 types vary in severity and symptoms, but can leave a patient
11 feeling frustrated and isolated; and

12 Whereas, Aphasia not only takes a physical toll, but can also
13 take an emotional one as patients can feel trapped in their own
14 mind as they struggle to express themselves and speak with their
15 friends and family; and

16 Whereas, If the symptoms of aphasia last longer than three
17 months after a stroke, many individuals never completely recover.
18 However, with continued rehabilitation and support some patients
19 can continue to improve over the years and even decades; and

20 Whereas, The American Heart Association and the American
21 Stroke Association seek to increase aphasia awareness throughout
22 the month of June by sharing communication tips, informing about
23 the effects of having aphasia, and further educating people on
24 aphasia itself; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
26 body recognize June 2019 as Aphasia Awareness Month; and be it
27 further

28 Resolved, That we commend The American Heart Association and
29 the American Stroke Association for their continued work in

1 educating individuals during Aphasia Awareness Month; and be it
2 further.

3 Resolved, That we urge key entities to continue to improve
4 patient care, prioritize new research, provide ongoing education to
5 health professionals, and raise public awareness about the severity
6 of aphasia.