

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Thursday, May 19, 2022, as Schizencephaly Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, schizencephaly is an extremely rare developmental birth defect characterized by abnormal slits, or clefts, in the cerebral hemispheres of the brain; and

WHEREAS, some babies with schizencephaly have clefts in both hemispheres of the brain, otherwise called bilateral clefts, and these babies commonly have developmental delays, delays in speech and language skills, and problems with brain-spinal cord communication; and

WHEREAS, other babies with schizencephaly have clefts in only one side of the body, otherwise called unilateral clefts, and these babies are often paralyzed on one side of the body, but may have average to near-average intelligence; and

WHEREAS, individuals with schizencephaly may also have an abnormally small head, cognitive delay and impairment, partial or complete paralysis, or poor muscle tone; and

WHEREAS, most individuals with schizencephaly will experience seizures, and some people with the condition may have an excessive accumulation of fluid in the brain called hydrocephalus; and

WHEREAS, the prognosis for individuals with schizencephaly varies depending on the size of the clefts and the extent of neurological disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in general, treatment for schizencephaly consists of physical therapy and drugs to prevent seizures; and

WHEREAS, in cases of schizencephaly that are complicated by hydrocephalus, treatment often consists of a surgically implanted tube, called a shunt, that is used to divert fluid to another area of the body where it can be absorbed; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the House of Representatives to raise awareness of the need to prevent or treat developmental brain defects such as schizencephaly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Thursday, May 19, 2022, as Schizencephaly Awareness Day in Louisiana and hereby calls upon all citizens of the state of Louisiana to raise awareness about schizencephaly.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES