

2006 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 4, 2006

Designating the third week of May, in 2006 and in each succeeding year, as "Angelman Syndrome Awareness Week" in Virginia.

Patron—Morgan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Angelman Syndrome is a genetic disorder first described by an English pediatrician, Dr. Harry Angelman, in 1965; and

WHEREAS, initially thought to be rare, it is now believed that thousands of Angelman Syndrome cases have gone undiagnosed or misdiagnosed as cerebral palsy, autism, or other childhood disorders; and

WHEREAS, Angelman Syndrome affects males, females, and all racial and ethnic groups equally with an estimated 1,000 to 5,000 cases in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Angelman Syndrome is being researched by numerous professionals in order to more accurately describe its origin, physical signs and symptoms, and behavioral characteristics; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and intervention are beneficial when Angelman Syndrome is suspected, and diagnosis can now be accomplished within the first year after birth; and

WHEREAS, the Angelman Syndrome Foundation is dedicated to educating and supporting parents who must care for a child and professionals who treat patients with Angelman Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for citizens to become more aware of Angelman Syndrome through education, information exchange, and research in order to improve early diagnosis and intervention and to achieve a better understanding of this genetic disorder; and, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate the third week of May, in 2006 and in each succeeding year, as "Angelman Syndrome Awareness Week" in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of the third week in May as "Angelman Syndrome Awareness Week" on the General Assembly's website.

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