



2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 48

1 **Relating to:** American Stroke Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, the month of May has been recognized as American Stroke
3 Awareness Month; and

4 Whereas, every 45 seconds, on average, someone in the United States suffers
5 from a stroke; and

6 Whereas, each year over 700,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke;
7 and

8 Whereas, stroke is the third-leading cause of death in the United States,
9 ranking only behind diseases of the heart and cancer; and

10 Whereas, stroke accounts for one of every 16 deaths in the United States; and

11 Whereas, Wisconsin had a staggering 14,573 stroke hospitalizations in 2004,
12 and 10,960 deaths related to stroke or its aftereffects; and

13 Whereas, even for those who survive an initial stroke, the aftermath poses
14 serious risk of recurrence, and recovery is difficult; and

1 Whereas, 21 percent of men and 24 percent of women who have an initial stroke
2 die within a year; and

3 Whereas, stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United
4 States; and

5 Whereas, regrettably, certain ethnic groups are more likely to suffer from
6 stroke than others; and

7 Whereas, African Americans generally have almost twice the risk of first-ever
8 stroke compared with white Americans, and African Americans between the ages of
9 35 and 54 have four times the relative risk for stroke; and

10 Whereas, despite the prevalence and serious consequences of stroke, the
11 majority of Americans are not aware of their risk factors for a stroke, nor are they
12 aware of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke, such as sudden numbness
13 or weakness of the face, arm, or leg; sudden trouble with speaking or with seeing in
14 one or both eyes; sudden dizziness or loss of balance and coordination; and sudden
15 severe headache; and

16 Whereas, organizations like the American Heart Association and the American
17 Stroke Association are devoted to educating people about the causes of stroke and
18 to working with health advocates around the country to increase prevention
19 measures; and

20 Whereas, in an effort to address these issues, in November 2005, the American
21 Stroke Association launched its “Power to End Stroke” campaign aimed at educating
22 the African American community on how to reduce the chances of having a stroke,
23 recognizing the symptoms of stroke, and responding to the warning signs that a
24 person is suffering or has suffered from a stroke; now, therefore, be it

