

## State of Misconsin 2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE

## **2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 74**

September 23, 2009 – Introduced by Representative Vukmir, cosponsored by Senator Darling. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	<b>Relating to:</b> designating each October as hydrocephalus awareness month.
2	Whereas, hydrocephalus is a serious neurological condition, characterized by
3	the abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in the ventricles of the brain; and
4	Whereas, there is no known cure for hydrocephalus, which affects an estimated
5	one million Americans; and
6	Whereas, out of every 1,000 babies, one to two are born with hydrocephalus; and
7	Whereas, more than 375,000 older Americans have hydrocephalus, which often
8	goes undetected or misdiagnosed as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's
9	disease; and
10	Whereas, with appropriate diagnosis and treatment, people with
11	hydrocephalus can live full and productive lives; and
12	Whereas, the standard treatment for hydrocephalus was developed in 1952 and
13	carries multiple risks, including shunt failure, infection, and over drainage; and
14	Whereas, there are fewer than ten centers in the United States specializing in
15	the treatment of adults with normal pressure hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, each year, the people of the United States spend in excess of \$1,000,000,000 to treat hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, the September 2005 conference sponsored by seven institutes of the National Institutes of Health, and entitled, "Hydrocephalus: Myths, New Facts, Clear Directions," resulted in efforts to initiate new, collaborative research and treatment efforts; and

Whereas, the Hydrocephalus Association is one of the nation's oldest and largest patient and research advocacy and support networks for individuals suffering from hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, further research into the epidemiology, pathophysiology, disease burden, and improved treatment of hydrocephalus should be conducted or supported; and

Whereas, public awareness and professional education regarding hydrocephalus should increase through partnerships between the federal government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Hydrocephalus Association; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the Wisconsin legislature urges the federal government to collect comprehensive statistics regarding the seriousness of hydrocephalus and its impact on American families; and, be it further

**Resolved, That** the legislature designates each October as "Hydrocephalus Awareness Month" in Wisconsin so Wisconsin residents can become more familiar with hydrocephalus and the people dedicated to finding its cure.