



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5322/1  
CMH:klm

## 2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 104

February 8, 2018 - Introduced by Senators VINEHOUT, RISSER, WIRCH and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives BERCEAU, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, ZEPNICK, VRUWINK, HEBL, SPREITZER, SUBECK, SARGENT, KOLSTE and CROWLEY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** recognizing January 30, 2018, as “CTE Awareness Day” in Wisconsin.

2             Whereas, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is a progressive,  
3     degenerative brain disease that appears in persons with a history of repetitive brain  
4     trauma sustained over a period of years; and

5             Whereas, CTE was first described in 1928 by Dr. Harrison Martland in a study  
6     published in the Journal of the American Medical Association that linked brain  
7     injury and boxing (Martland, Harrison S. (1928) “Punch Drunk.” JAMA 91(15):  
8     1103-1107); and

9             Whereas, it was not until 2002 that Dr. Bennet Omalu discovered the first  
10    pathological evidence of CTE in a professional football player and, together with his  
11    colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh, published the details of his  
12    groundbreaking findings in 2005 (Omalu, B., DeKosky S., Minster, R., Kamboh, M.,  
13    Hamilton, R., & Wecht, C. (2005) “Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy in a National  
14    Football League player.” Neurosurgery, 57(1), 128-134); and

1           Whereas, CTE is caused by a buildup of an abnormal protein called Tau in the  
2 brain, which leads to brain cell death; and

3           Whereas, the risk of developing CTE is greatest with athletes, who frequently  
4 endure repeated subconcussive blows to the head from playing contact sports,  
5 military veterans, who can suffer traumatic injury from military training or blasting,  
6 and domestic violence survivors who sustain hits by partners or caretakers, and it  
7 also appears in those with epilepsy; and

8           Whereas, while symptoms associated with CTE, such as sleep disturbances,  
9 memory loss, tremors, addictions, progressive dementia, depression, suicidal  
10 thoughts, impaired judgment, and paranoia, most often present years or decades  
11 after the brain trauma or hits cease, they have been found in a patient as young as  
12 17 years old; and

13           Whereas, currently, CTE can be definitively diagnosed only after death through  
14 postmortem neuropathological analysis; and

15           Whereas, advocacy organizations, health care providers, and institutional  
16 researchers are dedicated to studying the cause and symptoms of CTE in order to  
17 enable parents and families to make informed decisions regarding the best interests  
18 of their children in youth sports and to develop an earlier diagnostic tool so that  
19 patients may address these symptoms as early as possible; and

20           Whereas, one such advocacy organization is Faces of CTE, co-founded by the  
21 Wisconsin family of Joseph Chernach, a youth and high school football athlete  
22 diagnosed with CTE; and

23           Whereas, the mission of Faces of CTE is to put a face on the mind-robbing  
24 disease Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and educate the public that CTE does  
25 not only impact professional athletes, but children and non-athletes as well; and

