



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 74

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

1 **Relating to:** 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

1 Whereas, each year, the people of the United States spend in excess of
2 \$1,000,000,000 to treat hydrocephalus; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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(END)