

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0968L.011

1 **Whereas**, hydrocephalus is a serious neurological condition, characterized by the
2 abnormal build up of cerebrospinal fluids in the ventricles of the brain; and

3

4 **Whereas**, there is no known cure for hydrocephalus, which effects an estimated
5 one million Americans; and

6

7 **Whereas**, one or two in every one thousand babies are born with hydrocephalus;
8 and

9

10 **Whereas**, over 375,000 older Americans have hydrocephalus which often goes
11 undetected or misdiagnosed as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's disease; and

12

13 **Whereas**, with appropriate diagnosis and treatment, people with hydrocephalus are
14 able to live full and productive lives; and

15

16 **Whereas**, the standard treatment for hydrocephalus was developed in 1953 and
17 carries multiple risks, including shunt failure, infection, and over drainage; and

18

19 **Whereas**, there are fewer than ten centers in the United States specializing in the
20 treatment of adults with normal pressure hydrocephalus; and

21

22 **Whereas**, each year the people of the United States spend in excess of one million
23 dollars to treat hydrocephalus; and

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

27

28 **Whereas**, further research into the epidemiology, pathology, disease burden, and
29 improved treatment of hydrocephalus should be conducted and supported; and

30

31 **Whereas**, public awareness and professional education regarding hydrocephalus
32 should increase through partnership between the local, state, and federal governments and patient
33 advocacy organizations, such as the Hydrocephalus Association:

34

35 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby recognize the month of October 2009 as "Hydrocephalus Awareness
38 Month" in Missouri so that Missourians can become more familiar with hydrocephalus and the
39 individuals dedicated to finding its cure; and

40

41 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly urges the federal
42 government to collect comprehensive statistics and data regarding the seriousness of
43 hydrcephalus and its impact on American families.

✓