



H.Res. 523– Encouraging recognition, and supporting the goals and ideals, of National Aphasia Awareness Month

Floor Situation

H.Res. 523 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) on June 27, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Res. 523 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on October 15, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 523 supports the goals and ideals of, and encourages all Americans to observe, National Aphasia Awareness Month.

The legislation recognizes that strokes, a primary cause of aphasia, are the third largest cause of death and disability in the United States.

H.Res. 523 also, acknowledges that aphasia deserves more attention and study in order to find new solutions for individuals experiencing aphasia and their caregivers.

Background

Aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage, typically resulting from a stroke. It can also occur in other neurological disorders, such as in the case of a brain tumor.

The effects of aphasia may include a loss or reduction in ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, while intelligence remains intact.

It is estimated that there are about 750,000 strokes per year in the United States, with approximately one third of these resulting in aphasia.

Aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States and more than 200,000 Americans acquire the disorder each year.

National Aphasia Awareness Month is being commemorated in June 2007.

Staff Contact

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