

2008 -- S 3095

LC03086

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JUNE AS "APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 12, 2008

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage, typically
2 resulting from a stroke; and

3 WHEREAS, While aphasia is most often the result of stroke or brain injury, it can also
4 occur in other neurological disorders, such as in the case of a brain tumor; and

5 WHEREAS, Many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in their right leg
6 and right arm, usually due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language
7 and movement on the right side of the body; and

8 WHEREAS, The effects of aphasia may include a loss or reduction in the ability to
9 speak, comprehend, read, and write, while whole intelligence remains intact; and

10 WHEREAS, Stroke is the third largest cause of death, ranking behind diseases of the
11 heart and all forms of cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United
13 States; and

14 WHEREAS, There are about 4.8 million stroke survivors alive today; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are about 700,000 strokes per year in the United
16 States, with approximately one-third of these resulting in aphasia; and

17 WHEREAS, Aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Aphasia Association's mission is to educate the public and
19 promote awareness of the condition called aphasia, which is an impairment of the ability to

1 communicate, not an impairment of intellect. The NAA makes people with aphasia, their
2 families, support systems and health care professionals aware of the resources to recover lost
3 skills to the extent possible to compensate for skills that will not be recovered and to minimize
4 the psychosocial impact for the language impairment; and

5 WHEREAS, As an advocacy organization for people with aphasia and their caregivers,
6 the National Aphasia Association envisions a society in which aphasia is a commonly understood
7 word, and where there are resources available for educating people with aphasia, their families,
8 health professionals and the public on how people can reclaim their quality of life; now, therefore
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby recognizes June of each year as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the National Aphasia Association.

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