

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6027

By Representative Barbieri-Lightner

3-16

9 A RESOLUTION promoting Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness.

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11 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries affect the network of nerves that
12 control the muscles of the shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist, hand and fingers
13 and can result in full to partial paralysis of one or both arms; and

14 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries can occur as a result of trauma
15 such as automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents; sports injuries
16 (“burners” or “stingers”); animal bites; gunshot or puncture wounds, as
17 a result of specific medical treatments or procedures or due to viral dis-
18 eases; and

19 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries occur often during the birthing
20 process; approximately 2-5 per 1000 newborns are affected by brachial
21 plexus injuries; and

22 WHEREAS, Persons affected by brachial plexus injuries experience
23 pain in muscle, joints and ligaments; weakness, atrophy and numbness of
24 the affected limb and sometimes respiratory difficulties as well; and

25 WHEREAS, Those affected by brachial plexus injuries often experi-
26 ence delayed diagnosis and lack of access to information related to current
27 and ground-breaking treatment options, including surgical procedures
28 available that could enhance function of the affected limb; and

29 WHEREAS, Early intervention by specialized physicians and experi-
30 enced occupational and physical therapists is essential for optimum func-
31 tional improvement related to a brachial plexus injury; and

32 WHEREAS, Lack of information related to current treatment proto-
33 col and outcome expectations for brachial plexus injuries hinders govern-
34 ment agencies in their efforts to provide appropriate benefits and services
35 to those in serious need; and

36 WHEREAS, The brachial plexus injury community, the Awareness
37 Committee and the United Brachial Plexus Network, Inc. are promoting
38 Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week to inform and educate the gen-
39 eral public, the medical community, individuals with brachial plexus in-
40 juries and their families; and

41 WHEREAS, The Awareness project is broken into two parts: Aware-
42 ness Week, which is always the third week in October, and ongoing aware-
43 ness. Awareness, in general, is an opportunity to educate the public, in-

1 form parents and professionals about the services available, and to reach
2 out to the general public, thereby making a difference in the lives of those
3 with brachial plexus injuries: Now, therefore,

4 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kan-*
5 *sas:* That we give our support to promoting awareness of brachial plexus
6 injuries and early diagnosis and treatment of these injuries; and

7 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Repre-
8 sentatives provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. Bob Rinaldi,
9 Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, 2401 Gillham, Kansas City, MO
10 64108-9898; United Brachial Plexus Network, Inc., 1610 Kent Street,
11 Kent, OH 44240 and Representative Barbieri-Lightner.