

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Michael F. Rush**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

**An Act Relative to Stroke Awareness Month.**

PETITION OF:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO STROKE AWARENESS MONTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1:** Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States with about  
2 700,000 having a stroke and with about 500,000 of these is first or new strokes and about  
3 200,000 occur in people who have already had a stroke before and is the leading cause of  
4 severe, long term disability. On average a stroke occurs every 45 seconds in the United States;  
5 and on average, someone dies of a stroke every 3 minutes; and today, 5.7 million Americans  
6 are stroke survivors, and as many as 30 percent of them are permanently disabled, requiring  
7 extensive and costly care. Death and disability from stroke are projected to nearly double by  
8 2032. In 2009 the estimated direct and indirect cost of stroke will be about \$65.5 billion dollars. If  
9 more people could recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke and were able to seek  
10 treatment within 3 hours lives would be saved and the impact of stroke's lasting effects would  
11 save health care dollars.

12  
13 Therefore the governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart May as **American**  
14 **Stroke Month** in recognition of the thousands of residents across the commonwealth affected  
15 by stroke, and the need for increased public awareness, research and support for victims and  
16 their families, and recommending that the month be observed in an appropriate manner by the  
17 people.

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