

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 916

Expressing support for the annual Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day on
February 22, 2022, coinciding with American Heart Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. BARR (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. BEATTY) submitted
the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy
and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the annual Heart Valve Disease
Awareness Day on February 22, 2022, coinciding with
American Heart Month.

Whereas, as many as 11,600,000 people in the United States
have heart valve disease, which involves damage to one or
more of the heart's valves and can reduce blood flow,
causing the heart to work harder and the body to get less
oxygen;

Whereas around 25,000 people in the United States die from
heart valve disease every year;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 people age 75 and older are esti-
mated to have moderate to severe valve disease;

Whereas if not treated, some forms of heart valve disease can
lead to major health problems including decreased mobil-

ity, disability, loss of independence, heart failure, stroke, blood clotting, or even death;

Whereas when aortic stenosis, a common form of valve disease, becomes severe, the average survival rate without surgical intervention is as low as 50 percent at 2 years after the onset of symptoms and 20 percent at 5 years after such onset;

Whereas patients with severe mitral regurgitation, which can be caused by mitral valve prolapse, who don't have surgery have mortality rates of 20 percent after 1 year and 50 percent after 5 years;

Whereas symptoms of heart valve disease such as shortness of breath, excessive fatigue, and fainting are often dismissed as normal aspects of aging;

Whereas people are at higher risk of developing heart valve disease if they have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, insulin resistance, diabetes, coronary heart disease, a congenital heart abnormality or family history of valve disease, a history of heart problems like heart attack or heart failure, rheumatic fever or infective endocarditis, or previous valve disease;

Whereas people are also at higher risk of developing heart valve disease if they are a smoker, overweight or obese, get little physical activity or exercise, or are older in age;

Whereas heart valve disease, with proper education and awareness, can often be detected through a simple physical exam and treated with either valve repair or valve replacement; and

Whereas February 22, 2022, is the designated day to observe Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives sup-
2 ports—

3 (1) the goals of Heart Valve Disease Awareness
4 Day;

5 (2) increasing recognition of the specific risks
6 and symptoms of heart valve disease;

7 (3) improving detection and treatment of heart
8 valve disease; and

9 (4) the development of prediction models, guide-
10 lines, and educational resources for individuals who
11 are at risk of cardiac disease and sudden cardiac
12 death.

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