



## H.RES. 896 – RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO PURSUE RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES, A TREATMENT, AND AN EVENTUAL CURE FOR PRIMARY LATERAL SCLEROSIS, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE HARDY BROWN PRIMARY LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 896 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 Joe Baca (D-CA) on December 19, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Res. 896 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 30, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 896 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment, and an eventual cure for primary lateral sclerosis;
- Commends those hospitals, community clinics, educational institutes, and other organizations that are--
  - Working to increase awareness of primary lateral sclerosis; and
  - Conducting research for methods to help patients suffering from primary lateral sclerosis;
- Congratulates the work of the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation for its great efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for individuals who suffer from primary lateral sclerosis, while funding research to help find a cure for this disorder;
- Supports the designation of an appropriate time to recognize 'Hardy Brown Primary Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month'; and
- Calls upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

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### BACKGROUND

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), primary lateral sclerosis (PLS) is a rare neuromuscular disease characterized by progressive muscle weakness in the voluntary muscles. The onset of PLS usually occurs after the age of 50, and symptoms usually include difficulty with balance, weakness and stiffness in the legs, and clumsiness. There is presently no cure for PLS.

Hardy Brown is the co-publisher of 'Black Voice News,' which is a weekly paper distributed in California. Mr. Brown has worked to promote awareness for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease, which is commonly mistaken for PLS. In PLS, there is no evidence of the degeneration of spinal motor neurons or muscle wasting that occurs in ALS. [NIH - Primary lateral sclerosis](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.