

Statement of

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

United States Senator

New York

September 25, 2008

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S. Res. 659, Designating September 27, 2008, as

Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to submit this statement for the record in support of Senate Resolution 659. Senators Whitehouse, Clinton, and Biden join me in calling for September 27, 2008, to be designated as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day.

Substance abuse is a major public health issue. More than 23 million Americans struggle with drug or alcohol addiction every day. However, although substance abuse is a treatable disease, only 10 percent of them receive treatment.

I believe we can encourage more Americans to seek treatment for substance abuse by raising awareness about addiction and the potential for recovery. On September 27, 2008, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the A&E Television Network will hold a Recovery Rally on the Brooklyn Bridge and in City Hall Park in New York City. This rally will celebrate people in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction, and the individuals who have supported them.

In recognition of this important event, my colleagues and I call on Congress to designate September 27, 2008, as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day. We urge other Americans to observe this day with similar events to raise awareness about substance abuse. By devoting national attention to a national issue, we will make a strong statement of support to our fellow citizens struggling with drug or alcohol addiction.