Public Health Awareness

Shedding Light On Epilepsy

(NAPSA)—While it may come as a surprise to many, Atlanta Falcons running back Jason Snelling has had to struggle against an unseen foe on his way to becoming a success in the National Football League. Snelling has epilepsy, and when it comes to waging a successful battle against the disorder, he is not alone. Snelling is one of a growing number of talented and accomplished members of the African-American community who are in the public eye and are now talking about their experiences with epilepsy. Others include recording artist and performer Prince and actor and director Danny Glover. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that from time to time produces brief disturbances in the normal electrical functions of the brain. These recurring disturbances are called seizures, which can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Snelling was diagnosed with epilepsy as a teenager, but he didn’t let it stop him from becoming a standout athlete at the University of Virginia or playing professionally for the Falcons. He is shining a light on epilepsy to educate others and dispel the myths associated with it.

“I hope that by sharing my story, I will encourage more people to talk about epilepsy and those with the condition to take a more active role with their doctors to better manage their care,” said Snelling. “I’m excited about working with organizations like the Epilepsy Foundation because they provide support and information to help them and their seizures participate in all life experiences.”

Of special concern for the Foundation are the challenges faced by those with epilepsy in the African-American community. According to the Foundation, African-Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with epilepsy than Caucasians. Recently, a research team at the University of Cincinnati found that access to specialists and to anti-epileptic drugs is limited within the African-American community. But even more damaging than a lack of access to care can be the myths and misunderstandings surrounding epilepsy, which can prevent people from seeking the help they need.

To help shed light on epilepsy, the Foundation, through its affiliate network across the country, offers programs and services ranging from summer camps to legal services and employment support. The Epilepsy Foundation also provides resources to educate first responders, caregivers, school nurses, seniors, youth and parents about the condition. As the largest nonprofit funder of epilepsy research, the Foundation is helping to increase the number of qualified scientists who are searching for a cure to the condition.

Visit www.epilepsyfoundation.org and knowthedifference.org to learn more.

Healthy Ideas

(NAPSA)—If you want to make a personal commitment to improve fitness for midlife and older adults, you can learn how from the experts at the AARP and the Lifeline Fitness Alliance. Contact step@lifelinfitnessalliance.org or call (800) 361-4822 for more information.

Celebrities, like Atlanta Falcons’ Jason Snelling, are spreading the word that epilepsy shouldn’t define what a person can accomplish.

Afri can-American community.

Epilepsy Foundation because they

providing support and information about

suffer from epilepsy and

use the corkscrew.

Some say the English were the first to seal wine bottles with cork. However, getting the cork out to get to the wine required a special tool—the corkscrew.

Eyelashes help to keep dirt out of eyes and eyebrows help to keep perspiration from running into eyes.

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Pending Legislation May Make Loans More Expensive

(NAPSA)—If you’re planning on—or just dreaming about—buying a house, it may pay to hang up. Although interest rates are currently low, in the not-too-distant future the costs of financing a home may be so high many consumers simply will not be able to afford it. That could happen if a piece of legislation before the U.S. Senate comes to fruition, warn people familiar with the situation.

The financial reform bill “Restoring American Financial Stability Act” includes something called a “risk-retention” provision. This would require all lenders to hold at least 10 percent of the “credit risk” for each loan they originate and ultimately sell off to investors. The idea is that this will prompt lenders to be more diligent in qualifying clients, as it forces them to have exposure to risk in the loans they write.

It’s also believed to mean lenders will be less willing to originate risky loans or those with high risk. As a result, it could drive up interest rates and make home buying even more difficult for many families.

Consider this: If a small community lender writes $100 million in loans, after only five years it will be asked to hold as much as $50 million in cash reserves—impossible for most lenders.

Lenders warn the net result could be a smaller pool of lenders, with those who remain forced to charge significantly higher rates to cover the cost of risk retention.

“I have to wonder if the government is familiar with the lending process. Lenders already retain the risk on the loans they write. If they do not meet the investors’ guidelines, the lender must buy that loan back,” Stern said.

Many lenders, and consumers, are watching this one very closely.

You can write your legislators to let them know that you oppose risk retention and limited choice at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is currently weighing legislation that would dramatically impact the cost and availability of mortgages.

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Did You Know?

(NAPSA)—To get an accurate snapshot of America’s camera use, just think digital. Seventy-seven percent of American households now own a digital camera, according to a recent survey by the Consumer Electronics Association. For more information, visit www.digitaltips.org.

The Language Flagship program helps students by partnering with U.S. colleges and others, changing how languages are taught. Students study in the U.S. and at least one year through Overseas Flagship Centers in foreign countries. For more information, see www.flagshipcenter.org.

For information on Rx Response, visit www.RxResponse.org.

For more information, visit www.countryhousedrug.com.