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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted by
3 infected ticks; and

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease was first recognized in the United
5 States in 1975 after a mysterious outbreak of arthritis near
6 Old Lyme, Connecticut; since then, reports of Lyme disease have
7 increased dramatically, and the disease has become an important
8 public health concern; and

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10 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
11 states that the reported Lyme disease cases are numbered at
12 30,000 a year in the United States, but the actual burden of
13 Lyme disease may actually be as high as 300,000 cases a year
throughout the United States; and

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15 WHEREAS, The signs and symptoms of Lyme disease can vary
16 greatly from one person to another; symptoms can also vary with
17 the length of time a person has been infected; the initial
18 symptoms of Lyme disease are similar to those of more common
19 diseases, such as a flu-like illness without a cough or
20 mononucleosis, and many infected persons do not recall a tick
21 bite; further symptoms can develop over time, including fever,
22 severe headache and stiff neck, certain heart irregularities,
temporary paralysis of facial muscles, pain with numbness or

1 weakness in the arms or legs, loss of concentration or memory
2 problems, and, most commonly, Lyme arthritis; and

3 WHEREAS, Not all ticks carry the bacterium of Lyme disease,
4 and a bite does not always result in the development of Lyme
5 disease, however, since it is impossible to tell by sight which
6 ticks are infected, it is important to avoid tick bites
7 whenever possible and to perform regular tick checks when
8 traversing in tick-invested areas of the United States, any
9 wooded areas, or any areas with tall grass and weeds; and

10 WHEREAS, While Lyme disease has been associated with
11 outdoor activities that involve being in the woods or in areas
12 with tall grass and weeds, recent reports have connected Lyme
13 disease transmission with the growing incidence of
14 infestations of mice in homes, as mice carry ticks that carry
15 Lyme disease bacterium; a single mouse may have 60 to 100 ticks
16 covering its ears and face; and

17 WHEREAS, As Lyme disease is a complex illness with both
18 acute and chronic manifestation, there continues to be a need
19 to increase funding for Lyme disease treatment and prevention;
20 in 2015, the first major research program devoted to the causes
21 and cures of Lyme disease was established at Johns Hopkins
22 School of Medicine as the Lyme Disease Clinical Research
23 Center; and

1 WHEREAS, Initial funding from federal grants has been able
2 to start research known as the Study of Lyme Disease Immunology
3 and Clinical Events (SLICE); the federal 21st Century Cures Act
4 created a working group within the United States Department of
5 Health and Human Services to improve outcomes of Lyme disease
6 and to develop a plan for improving diagnosis, treatment, and
7 prevention; however, there is still a need for more research on
8 Lyme disease and efforts to promote awareness of its signs and
9 symptoms; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 24, 2018
12 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Day" in the State of Illinois to
13 promote awareness of the impact that Lyme disease has on our
14 society.