



HR0233

LRB104 12956 MST 24523 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Topical steroid withdrawal syndrome (TSWS), also
3 known as topical steroid addiction or red skin syndrome, is a
4 severe, debilitating condition that can arise from intentional
5 or unintentional exposure to topical steroids; and

6 WHEREAS, Topical steroids are widely prescribed and
7 purchased over the counter to treat acute as well as chronic
8 skin conditions, such as eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, and
9 alopecia areata; and

10 WHEREAS, TSWS is characterized by skin flushing,
11 inflammation, diffuse spreading rashes, profuse skin flaking,
12 burning, and itching worse than the original condition that
13 typically appear after use of topical steroid treatments,
14 between treatments, or after discontinuing topical steroids;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, It can take several months to several years for
17 symptoms to subside, leaving some TSWS sufferers bedridden and
18 housebound and unable to work, to care for children, or to go
19 to school; and

20 WHEREAS, A prolonged withdrawal and recovery period can
21 take a significant toll on patients' mental health as well as

1 their physical health; 81% of adults and 56% of children
2 experiencing TSWS report feeling anxious and/or depressed, and
3 47% of adults and 11% of children experiencing TSWS report
4 suicidal ideation; and

5 WHEREAS, The prevalence of topical steroid addiction is
6 unknown due to a scarcity of published research; and

7 WHEREAS, The scarcity of research on TSWS impedes efforts
8 to define diagnostic criteria for TSWS, understand its causes,
9 mechanics, and effects, develop appropriate treatment
10 protocols, and educate providers and patients about TSWS and
11 steroid stewardship; and

12 WHEREAS, Lack of awareness of and education about TSWS
13 among patients and providers can lead to friction between
14 them, causing patients to question their providers' medical
15 oversight and causing providers to suspect their patients of
16 medication non-compliance and, occasionally, parental neglect;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, All parties would benefit greatly from awareness
19 and prevention education on the signs of topical steroid
20 dependence and the risks of TSWS; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we declare February 3, 2026 as Topical Steroid Withdrawal
3 Syndrome Awareness Day in the State of Illinois.