



HR0841

LRB101 21321 MST 71937 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a growing national public health crisis; and

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by several different strains of bacteria that are carried and spread by ticks; and

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WHEREAS, Those who are bitten by ticks and subsequently become infected with Lyme disease suffer from fever, fatigue, joint pain, and skin rashes and, in the most severe cases, can be afflicted by serious joint and nervous system problems; and

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WHEREAS, In the United States, 35,000 to 45,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year; the actual number of diagnosed cases is closer to 450,000 annually, as it is estimated that only one out of every ten cases of Lyme disease is reported; and

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WHEREAS, Since the late 20th century, there has been a dramatic increase in the Lyme disease infection rate each year; Lyme disease infection rates have doubled since 1991, from 3.74 cases per 100,000 to 7.95 cases per 100,000; Lyme disease is one of the fastest-growing infectious diseases in the United

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1 States and the western world; and

2 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose; diagnostic
3 tests analyze blood samples to look for the presence of
4 antibodies, an immune response that may not be detectable in
5 the blood until many weeks after the initial tick bite and
6 infection; and

7 WHEREAS, Up to 60 percent of acute cases of Lyme disease
8 are misdiagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Those who are diagnosed with the disease early and
10 prescribed sufficient quantities of antibiotics may recover
11 quickly; and

12 WHEREAS, If the diagnosis is delayed or individuals are
13 treated with insufficient antibiotics therapy, many experience
14 late-stage symptoms that become chronic; and

15 WHEREAS, A diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease for those who
16 are not cured by antibiotics and who continue to suffer the
17 apparent effects of the disease is controversial; and

18 WHEREAS, The newest research seemingly validates the
19 diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease and suggests that heretofore
20 unknown bacterial persister cells remain dormant in the body,

1 evading antibiotics and the immune system, before reinfecting
2 the individual after the standard course of antibiotics has
3 been taken; and

4 WHEREAS, Those who suffer from chronic Lyme disease
5 experience terrible symptoms and often have difficulty finding
6 treatment or answers; many are unable to continue working; and

7 WHEREAS, Public funding for Lyme disease research receives
8 less than two percent of the funding allocated for researching
9 West Nile virus and less than 0.2 percent of the funding that
10 HIV/AIDS research receives, despite Lyme disease having annual
11 case counts that dwarf those of both diseases; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we urge the federal government to allocate more funding toward
15 finding a cure for the devastating and increasingly prevalent
16 public health crisis that is Lyme disease; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we declare May 2020 as Lyme Disease
18 Awareness Month in the State of Illinois.