



HR0216

LRB103 31903 LAW 60589 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

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

3

4

WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, cases are on the rise in Illinois; and

5

6

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

7

8

9

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

10

11

12

13

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 476,000 annually as it is estimated that only one out of every ten cases of Lyme disease is reported; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Since the late 20th century, there has been a dramatic increase in the Lyme disease infection rate each

20

1 year; Lyme disease infection rates have doubled since 1991  
2 from 3.74 cases per 100,000 to 7.95 cases per 100,000; Lyme  
3 disease is one of the fastest-growing infectious diseases in  
4 the United States and the western world; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Up to 60% of acute cases of Lyme disease are  
11 misdiagnosed; and

12 WHEREAS, Those who are diagnosed with the disease early  
13 and prescribed sufficient quantities of antibiotics may  
14 recover quickly; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, The newest research seemingly validates the  
2 diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease and suggests that heretofore  
3 unknown bacterial persister cells remain dormant in the body,  
4 evading antibiotics and the immune system, before reinfecting  
5 the individual after the standard course of antibiotics has  
6 been taken; and

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

10           WHEREAS, Public funding for Lyme disease research receives  
11 less than 2% of the funding allocated for researching West  
12 Nile virus and less than 0.2% of the funding that HIV/AIDS  
13 research receives, despite Lyme disease having annual case  
14 counts that dwarf those of both diseases; therefore, be it

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

20           RESOLVED, That we declare May 2023 as Lyme Disease  
21 Awareness Month in the State of Illinois.