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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The month of September each year is recognized as National Scarring Alopecia Awareness Month to increase knowledge and awareness of scarring alopecia; and

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WHEREAS, Scarring (cicatricial) alopecia (hair loss) is still not well-known among patients and the public; many patients and the public do not know the difference between non-scarring alopecia and scarring alopecia; scarring alopecia encompasses a group of hair loss disorders that causes inflammation, and the hair follicles are irreversibly destroyed (permanently damaged) and replaced by fibrous tissue; there is no way to regrow the hair that is already lost and permanently damaged; and

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WHEREAS, Within the alopecia population, the prevalence of scarring alopecia is believed to be approximately 7%, but not enough epidemiological studies have been performed to determine the incidence of scarring (cicatricial) alopecias; clinically, it is defined as one or more patches of permanent alopecia on the scalp; these may remain discrete or coalesce to produce a near total alopecia; within the patches, the skin is bald, smooth, and shiny, and pores are absent because of a complete loss of follicular openings; and

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1           WHEREAS, Scarring hair loss is a traumatizing experience  
2 and may negatively impact a hair loss patient's quality of  
3 life (QOL); permanent hair loss can be disfiguring and damage  
4 an affected individual's self-esteem; currently, there are not  
5 any approved Federal Drug Administration (FDA) drugs for  
6 scarring (cicatricial) alopecia patients, which often leaves  
7 patients feeling defeated and hopeless; and

8           WHEREAS, Bringing awareness to this disease can help those  
9 experiencing scarring hair loss remain confident and positive,  
10 despite their condition; hair loss often carries a stigma that  
11 can only be dispelled with education and knowledge, and for  
12 many with this disease, the emotional aspect of living with  
13 hair loss can be the greatest challenge; and

14           WHEREAS, National Scarring Alopecia Awareness Month serves  
15 as a time to focus on educating hair stylists, medical  
16 professionals, undiagnosed patients, and the general  
17 population about this traumatic, scarring, and often painful  
18 disease; and

19           WHEREAS, National Scarring Alopecia Awareness Month serves  
20 as a spark to increase advocacy efforts for scarring alopecia  
21 patients and to underscore the importance of understanding  
22 this rare disease; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we recognize the month of September 2023 as being National  
4 Scarring Alopecia Awareness Month; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the Scarring Alopecia Foundation as a symbol of  
7 our respect and esteem.