



HR0243

LRB095 11519 KXB 34202 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2
3
4
5
6

WHEREAS, Scleroderma, or systemic sclerosis, is a chronic connective tissue disease generally classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases; the word "scleroderma" comes from two Greek words: "sclero" meaning hard, and "derma" meaning skin; and

7
8
9
10
11
12

WHEREAS, Hardening of the skin is one of the most visible manifestations of the disease; the disease has been called "progressive systemic sclerosis," but the use of that term has been discouraged since it has been found that scleroderma is not necessarily progressive; the disease may take several forms, and there is also much variability among patients; and

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is not contagious, it is not infectious, it is not cancerous or malignant; there are an estimated 300,000 people in the United States who have scleroderma, about one third of whom have the systemic form of scleroderma; localized scleroderma is more common in children, whereas systemic scleroderma is more common in adults; scleroderma can develop and is found in every age group from infants to the elderly, but its onset is most frequent between the ages of 25 to 55; and

22

WHEREAS, The Greater Chicago Chapter of the Scleroderma

1 Foundation is working within the State of Illinois to heighten
2 awareness and aid in funding for research for this disease; and

3 WHEREAS, The mission of the Greater Chicago Chapter of the
4 Scleroderma Foundation is to help patients and their families
5 cope with scleroderma through mutual support programs, peer
6 counseling, physician referrals, and educational information;
7 to promote public awareness and education through patient and
8 health professional seminars, literature, and publicity
9 campaigns; and to stimulate and support research to improve
10 treatment and ultimately find the cause of and cure for
11 scleroderma and related diseases; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 proclaim April 26, 2007 to be Scleroderma Awareness Day in the
15 State of Illinois, asking all the citizens of the State of
16 Illinois to take time to learn more about scleroderma and the
17 need for more funding to combat this disease; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Scleroderma
20 Foundation as a symbol of our respect.