



HR0021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), has been found by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to be "a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected patients", leaving them with a lower quality of life than those suffering from multiple sclerosis, stroke, renal failure, heart failure, and other chronic diseases; and

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WHEREAS, Between 39,000 and 99,000 of Illinois residents of all ages, races, and genders are believed to be afflicted with ME, with an estimated 836,000 to 2.5 million Americans afflicted and 17 million worldwide; and

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WHEREAS, ME persists for years or even decades because of a lack of treatments, leaving one quarter of patients homebound or bedbound, with many students unable to attend school and 50-75% of patients unable to work at an annual cost of \$17 million to \$24 million in medical expenses and lost productivity; and

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WHEREAS, The National Academy of Medicine noted a lack of knowledge about the disease due to a "paucity of research" and "remarkably little research funding", and concluded that "more

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1 research is essential"; and

2 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Medicine noted that the
3 medical community "generally still doubts the existence or
4 seriousness of this disease" and patients have difficulty being
5 diagnosed or accessing quality medical care; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we:

8 (1) Recognize that Myalgic Encephalomyelitis is a tragic,
9 disabling disease that destroys the lives of many patients
10 and takes a severe toll on their families, friends, and
11 caretakers;

12 (2) Recognize and affirm the commitment of Illinois to
13 improving the availability and quality of medical and
14 supportive care for ME patients;

15 (3) Recommend that the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
16 fund ME research at a level commensurate with similarly
17 burdensome diseases;

18 (4) Encourage universities in Illinois to focus research
19 attention on this underserved disease;

20 (5) Recommend that the Centers for Disease Control and
21 Prevention disseminate new ME medical education, updated
22 in accordance with the National Academy of Medicine
23 recommendations, the recommendations of the CFS Advisory
24 Committee of the United States Department of Health and

1 Human Services's, and the best practices of disease
2 experts; and
3 (6) Encourage media organizations to inform the public
4 about the seriousness of the disease.