



SR0377

LRB104 14379 MST 27515 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Topical steroid withdrawal syndrome (TSWS), also known as topical steroid addiction or red skin syndrome, is a severe, debilitating condition that can arise from intentional or unintentional exposure to topical steroids; and

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WHEREAS, Topical steroids are widely prescribed and purchased over the counter to treat acute as well as chronic skin conditions, such as eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, and alopecia areata; and

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WHEREAS, TSWS is characterized by skin flushing, inflammation, diffuse spreading rashes, profuse skin flaking, burning, and itching worse than the original condition that typically appear after use of topical steroid treatments, between treatments, or after discontinuing topical steroids; and

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WHEREAS, It can take several months to several years for symptoms to subside, leaving some TSWS sufferers bedridden and housebound and unable to work, to care for children, or to go to school; and

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WHEREAS, A prolonged withdrawal and recovery period can take a significant toll on patients' mental health as well as

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1 their physical health; 81% of adults and 56% of children
2 experiencing TSWS report feeling anxious and/or depressed, and
3 47% of adults and 11% of children experiencing TSWS report
4 suicidal ideation; and

5 WHEREAS, The prevalence of topical steroid addiction is
6 unknown due to a scarcity of published research; and

7 WHEREAS, The scarcity of research on TSWS impedes efforts
8 to define diagnostic criteria for TSWS, understand its causes,
9 mechanics, and effects, develop appropriate treatment
10 protocols, and educate providers and patients about TSWS and
11 steroid stewardship; and

12 WHEREAS, Lack of awareness of and education about TSWS
13 among patients and providers can lead to friction between
14 them, causing patients to question their providers' medical
15 oversight and causing providers to suspect their patients of
16 medication non-compliance and, occasionally, parental neglect;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, All parties would benefit greatly from awareness
19 and prevention education on the signs of topical steroid
20 dependence and the risks of TSWS; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare February 3,
2 2026 as Topical Steroid Withdrawal Syndrome Awareness Day in
3 the State of Illinois.