

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. C. R. No. 5**

**Representatives Patterson, Ruhl**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Johnson, T., Hood, Hambley, Stinziano, Bishoff,  
Rogers, Leland, Antonio, Hackett, Fedor, Blessing, Celebrezze, Lepore-Hagan,  
Amstutz**

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**ACONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to 1  
take action to improve prevention, diagnosis, and 2  
treatment of Lyme disease. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne illness 4  
in the United States, with the Centers for Disease Control and 5  
Prevention (CDC) estimating that 300,000 Americans are diagnosed 6  
with the disease each year; and 7

WHEREAS, Many cases of Lyme disease are never reported to 8  
the CDC, as only approximately 30,000 of the estimated 300,000 9  
cases of Lyme disease are reported to the CDC by state health 10  
departments each year; and 11

WHEREAS, Lyme disease can cause devastating health 12  
consequences if left untreated, such as severe pain, heart 13  
palpitations, and chronic neurological damage; and 14

WHEREAS, Diagnosis of Lyme disease is difficult because 15  
there is no general consensus on the definition of its symptoms 16

and the symptoms are similar to those of other conditions, 17  
leading to misdiagnoses. Furthermore, current Lyme disease 18  
testing methods often lead to inaccurate results; and 19

WHEREAS, There remains much debate in the medical community 20  
concerning the proper courses of action for diagnosing and for 21  
treating Lyme disease; and 22

WHEREAS, Greater knowledge of Lyme disease and its causes 23  
will put the general public in a better position to avoid 24  
contracting the disease; now therefore be it 25

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General 26  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge 27  
the CDC to take the following actions: 28

(1) Update definitions of Lyme disease symptoms by clinical 29  
diagnosis; 30

(2) Reconsider standards and best practices for diagnosing 31  
and for treating Lyme disease; 32

(3) Provide more resources for health care professionals 33  
and the general public to learn about Lyme disease to aid in 34  
prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease; 35

(4) Improve the techniques that state and local public 36  
health agencies use to report cases of Lyme disease diagnoses so 37  
that fewer cases go unreported and the CDC can better monitor 38  
the incidence of the disease across the nation; 39

(5) Provide the means for improved laboratory testing or 40  
funding for improved laboratory testing to enhance early 41  
detection of Lyme disease in humans; and be it further 42

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 43  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 44  
President of the United States, to the United States Secretary 45  
of Health and Human Services, to the Director of the Centers for 46

Disease Control and Prevention, to the Speaker and Clerk of the	47
United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro	48
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the	49
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news	50
media of Ohio.	51