

As Reported by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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, Gonzales, Barnes, Brown, Butler, Ginter, Sears, Ramos, Anielski, Antani, Baker, Brenner, Buchy, Burkley, Derickson, Dever, Dovilla, Gerberry, Green, Grossman, Hall, Hayes, Johnson, G., Koehler, Kraus, Kunze, Landis, Manning, O'Brien, M., Phillips, Romanchuk, Ryan, Schuring, Slesnick, Smith, K., Sprague, Strahorn, Sykes, Terhar

Senators Tavares, Brown, Cafaro

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

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

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| 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 |