

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.20

Senators Theis, Polehanki, LaSata, Victory, Barrett, Horn, MacDonald, Lucido, Daley, Outman, Brinks, Hollier, Hertel, VanderWall, Chang, Wojno, Bayer, McCann, McMorrow, Irwin, Alexander, McBroom, Moss, Santana, Runestad, Bullock, Zorn, Bizon and Johnson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize myalgic encephalomyelitis as a
2 serious, debilitating disease and urge key entities to improve
3 patient care, prioritize new research, educate health
4 professionals, and raise awareness about the severity of the
5 disease.

6 Whereas, Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic
7 fatigue syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, has been found by the National
8 Academy of Medicine (NAM) to be "a serious, chronic, complex, and
9 systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the

1 activities of affected patients," leaving them with a lower quality
2 of life than others without ME/CFS; and

3 Whereas, More than 41,500 Michigan residents of all ages,
4 races, and genders are believed to be afflicted with ME/CFS. An
5 estimated 836,000 to 2.5 million Americans and 17 million
6 individuals worldwide are afflicted; and

7 Whereas, ME/CFS persists for years or even decades because of
8 a lack of treatments, leaving one quarter of patients homebound or
9 bedbound. Many students with the disease are unable to attend
10 school, and 50 to 75 percent of ME/CFS patients are unable to work,
11 resulting in an annual economic burden in America of \$17 billion to
12 \$24 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity, \$9.1 billion
13 of which has been attributed to lost household and labor force
14 productivity; and

15 Whereas, The NAM noted a lack of knowledge about the disease
16 due to a "paucity of research" and "remarkably little research
17 funding," and concluded that "more research is essential"; and

18 Whereas, The NAM noted that the medical community "generally
19 still doubts the existence or seriousness of this disease," and
20 patients have difficulty being diagnosed or accessing quality
21 medical care; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate, That we:

- 23 • Recognize that myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue
24 syndrome (ME/CFS) is a tragic, disabling disease that
25 destroys the lives of many patients and takes a severe
26 toll on their families, friends, and caretakers;
- 27 • Recognize and affirm the commitment of the state of
28 Michigan to improving the availability and quality of
29 medical and supportive care for ME/CFS patients;

- 1 • Recommend that the National Institutes of Health fund
2 ME/CFS research at a level commensurate with similarly
3 burdensome diseases;
4 • Encourage universities in Michigan to focus research
5 attention on this underserved disease;
6 • Recommend that the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention disseminate new ME/CFS medical education that
8 is updated in accordance with recommendations from the
9 National Academy of Medicine, the Chronic Fatigue
10 Syndrome Advisory Committee of the United States
11 Department of Health and Human Services, and disease
12 experts; and
13 • Encourage media organizations to inform the public about
14 the seriousness of the disease; and be it further

15 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
16 members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Director of
17 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the
18 National Institutes of Health, and the Michigan Association of
19 State Universities.