



HR0350

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted by  
3 infected ticks; and

4 WHEREAS, Lyme disease was first recognized in the United  
5 States in 1975 after a mysterious outbreak of arthritis near  
6 Old Lyme, Connecticut; since then, reports of Lyme disease have  
7 increased dramatically, and the disease has become an important  
8 public health concern; and

9 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
10 states that the reported Lyme disease cases are numbered at  
11 30,000 a year in the United States, but the actual burden of  
12 Lyme disease may actually be as high as 300,000 cases a year  
13 throughout the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The signs and symptoms of Lyme disease can vary  
15 greatly from one person to another; symptoms can also vary with  
16 the length of time a person has been infected; the initial  
17 symptoms of Lyme disease are similar to those of more common  
18 diseases, such as a flu-like illness without a cough or  
19 mononucleosis, and many infected persons do not recall a tick  
20 bite; further symptoms can develop over time, including fever,  
21 severe headache and stiff neck, certain heart irregularities,  
22 temporary paralysis of facial muscles, pain with numbness or

1 weakness in the arms or legs, loss of concentration or memory  
2 problems, and, most commonly, Lyme arthritis; and

3 WHEREAS, Not all ticks carry the bacterium of Lyme disease,  
4 and a bite does not always result in the development of Lyme  
5 disease, however, since it is impossible to tell by sight which  
6 ticks are infected, it is important to avoid tick bites  
7 whenever possible and to perform regular tick checks when  
8 traversing in tick-invested areas of the United States, any  
9 wooded areas, or any areas with tall grass and weeds; and

10 WHEREAS, While Lyme disease has been associated with  
11 outdoor activities that involve being in the woods or in areas  
12 with tall grass and weeds, recent reports have connected Lyme  
13 disease transmission with the growing incidence of  
14 infestations of mice in homes, as mice carry ticks that carry  
15 Lyme disease bacterium; a single mouse may have 60 to 100 ticks  
16 covering its ears and face; and

17 WHEREAS, As Lyme disease is a complex illness with both  
18 acute and chronic manifestation, there continues to be a need  
19 to increase funding for Lyme disease treatment and prevention;  
20 in 2015, the first major research program devoted to the causes  
21 and cures of Lyme disease was established at Johns Hopkins  
22 School of Medicine as the Lyme Disease Clinical Research  
23 Center; and

1           WHEREAS, Initial funding from federal grants has been able  
2 to start research known as the Study of Lyme Disease Immunology  
3 and Clinical Events (SLICE); the federal 21st Century Cures Act  
4 created a working group within the United States Department of  
5 Health and Human Services to improve outcomes of Lyme disease  
6 and to develop a plan for improving diagnosis, treatment, and  
7 prevention; however, there is still a need for more research on  
8 Lyme disease and efforts to promote awareness of its signs and  
9 symptoms; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 encourage increased awareness of Lyme disease in Illinois; and  
13 be it further

14           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to the Governor, the Director of the Department of  
16 Public Health, all constitutional officers, and all members of  
17 the General Assembly in order to raise awareness of Lyme  
18 disease.