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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions  
3 considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans)  
4 in the United States, according to the National Institutes of  
5 Health (NIH); and

6           WHEREAS, While each of these diseases may affect small  
7 numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30  
8 million Americans; and

9           WHEREAS, Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating  
10 conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those  
11 affected; and

12           WHEREAS, While more than 450 drugs and biologics have been  
13 approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the  
14 Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still  
15 have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Individuals and families affected by rare  
18 diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay,  
19 difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to  
20 treatments or ancillary services; and

1           WHEREAS, While the public is familiar with some rare  
2 diseases, many patients and families affected by less widely  
3 known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding  
4 research and raising public awareness to support the search for  
5 treatments; and

6           WHEREAS, Residents of Illinois are among those affected by  
7 rare diseases because nearly one in 10 Americans have rare  
8 diseases; and

9           WHEREAS, The National Organization for Rare Disorders  
10 (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease  
11 Day on February 28, 2018; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 declare February 28, 2018 as Rare Disease Day in the State of  
15 Illinois; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the National Organization for Rare Disorders.