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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a growing national public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by several different strains of bacteria that are carried and spread by ticks; and

WHEREAS, Those who are bitten by ticks and subsequently become infected with Lyme disease suffer from fever, fatigue, joint pain, and skin rashes and, in the most severe cases, can be afflicted by serious joint and nervous system problems; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, 35,000 to 45,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year; the actual number of diagnosed cases is closer to 450,000 annually, as it is estimated that only one out of every ten cases of Lyme disease is reported; and

WHEREAS, Since the late 20th century, there has been a dramatic increase in the Lyme disease infection rate each year; Lyme disease infection rates have doubled since 1991, from 3.74 cases per 100,000 to 7.95 cases per 100,000; Lyme disease is one of the fastest-growing infectious diseases in

1 the United States and the western world; and

2 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose; diagnostic  
3 tests analyze blood samples to look for the presence of  
4 antibodies, an immune response that may not be detectable in  
5 the blood until many weeks after the initial tick bite and  
6 infection; and

7 WHEREAS, Up to 60 percent of acute cases of Lyme disease  
8 are misdiagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Those who are diagnosed with the disease early  
10 and prescribed sufficient quantities of antibiotics may  
11 recover quickly; and

12 WHEREAS, If the diagnosis is delayed or individuals are  
13 treated with insufficient antibiotics therapy, many experience  
14 late-stage symptoms that become chronic; and

15 WHEREAS, A diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease for those who  
16 are not cured by antibiotics and who continue to suffer the  
17 apparent effects of the disease is controversial; and

18 WHEREAS, The newest research seemingly validates the  
19 diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease and suggests that heretofore  
20 unknown bacterial persister cells remain dormant in the body,

1 evading antibiotics and the immune system, before reinfecting  
2 the individual after the standard course of antibiotics has  
3 been taken; and

4 WHEREAS, Those who suffer from chronic Lyme disease  
5 experience terrible symptoms and often have difficulty finding  
6 treatment or answers; many are unable to continue working; and

7 WHEREAS, Public funding for Lyme disease research receives  
8 less than two percent of the funding allocated for researching  
9 West Nile virus and less than 0.2 percent of the funding that  
10 HIV/AIDS research receives, despite Lyme disease having annual  
11 case counts that dwarf those of both diseases; therefore, be  
12 it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we urge the federal government to allocate more funding toward  
16 finding a cure for the devastating and increasingly prevalent  
17 public health crisis that is Lyme disease; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we declare May 2021 as Lyme Disease  
19 Awareness Month in the State of Illinois.