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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Few people know of mitochondrial disease, yet
3 every 30 minutes a child is born who will develop this disease
4 by the age of 10; and

5 WHEREAS, There is no cure for mitochondrial disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is often misdiagnosed; and

7 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease occurs when mitochondria
8 inside of cells, which are responsible for creating more than
9 90% of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and
10 support growth, fail to carry out their primary functions; and

11 WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, less energy is generated
12 within the cell; and

13 WHEREAS, If this process is repeated throughout the body,
14 whole systems begin to fail, and the person's life is severely
15 compromised; and

16 WHEREAS, The disease primarily affects children; and

17 WHEREAS, Diseases of the mitochondria appear to cause the
18 most damage to cells of the brain, heart, liver, skeletal

1 muscles, kidneys, and the endocrine and respiratory systems;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Common symptoms include muscle weakness and pain,
4 gastrointestinal disorders, poor growth, cardiac disease,
5 liver disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, seizures,
6 visual and hearing problems, and susceptibility to infection;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Because so little is known about the disease,
9 there are only a few hospitals in the world that offer
10 treatment, causing affected families to travel regularly or
11 even relocate to receive treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is progressive, likely
13 terminal, and requires a high level of care and extremely
14 expensive medical treatment that often exceeds covered
15 insurance benefits, creating great financial burdens on
16 affected families; and

17 WHEREAS, The 3rd week of September is observed globally as
18 Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the 3rd
21 week of September 2014 as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week

1 in the State of Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 presented to the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation
4 (UMDF) and the Chicago Area Chapter of the UMDF.