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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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WHEREAS, There is no cure for mitochondrial disease; and

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WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is often misdiagnosed; and

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, The disease primarily affects children; and

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

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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-NINTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the 3rd  
21 week of September 2015 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.