

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1751

A RESOLUTION recognizing Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month and supporting further Lyme disease research.

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that neurological borreliosis cases are increasing tenfold as the fastest growing vector-borne disease in the nation and is significantly under-reported and misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-transmitted disease in the United States, yet the CDC acknowledges that the number of cases reported annually represents only about one-tenth of the true number of cases. Approximately 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the CDC by state health departments each year. However, other studies of the disease suggest that the number of people actually diagnosed with Lyme disease each year is around 300,000, leaving approximately 270,000 cases unreported; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is most common among boys aged five to 19, with this age group being affected at three times the average rate of all other age groups. Around 25% of all reported cases of Lyme disease are children; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is undiagnosed in many Americans due to the lack of an accurate screening test, no standard presentation, a lack of reliable tick and tick-borne disease studies and many other reasons; and

WHEREAS, New research by the Infectious Disease Society of America states, "Sensitivity of the two-tier testing for early Lyme disease samples ranged from 43% to 48%," meaning the current blood testing used for diagnosis is inadequate for over 52% of those tested; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease can present in a variety of ways. One common sign of Lyme disease is the presentation of a red bull's-eye rash on the skin near the tick bite mark. However, only approximately 30% of Lyme disease patients present with this symptom. Lyme disease is known as "The New Great Imitator," because it can be misdiagnosed as fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, chronic fatigue syndrome, Lou Gehrig's disease, cardiac problems, Alzheimer's disease, attention deficit disorder, vision and hearing problems and other conditions, including psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease can affect almost any part of the body and produces a wide range of symptoms, including skin lesions, meningitis, progressive muscular and joint pain, mood changes and behavioral problems. If left untreated, Lyme disease can become an incurable and lifelong debilitating illness characterized by neurological disorders, emotional and mental disorders, serious pain syndromes in the bone and muscles, fatal heart disease and respiratory failure; and

WHEREAS, In Kansas, we encourage all Kansans to recognize that tick-borne infections are a public health threat. We recognize the importance of early detection, accurate testing and encourage equal access to the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Standard of Care and Physician Training; and

WHEREAS, May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. The ticks that transmit Lyme disease to humans are most active during May through July: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month and acknowledge that Lyme disease is significantly underdiagnosed in the United States and support further research of the disease, its symptoms and its treatment; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation; the Chair and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking Member of the United States House Energy Subcommittee on Health; the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking Member of the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies; and the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking Member of the United States House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health.

Senate Resolution No. 1751 was sponsored by Senator Carolyn McGinn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*