

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1025

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to designate May 12, 2008, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, an estimated six to twelve million people in the United States, two to four percent of the population of our country, and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, increasing at epidemic rates, Fibromyalgia is a chronic illness that causes fatigue and debilitating pain in women, men, and children of all ages and races; and

WHEREAS, patients with this illness often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness, weakness, migraine headaches, numbness, tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, it often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals are frequently inadequately educated on the diagnosis and treatment of the disease; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that we recognize the existing medical research demonstrating biochemical abnormalities in people with Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia in children and young adults presents unique challenges for this population, which suffers not only from the symptoms of this illness, but also from the lack of understanding and social acceptance; and

WHEREAS, people with Fibromyalgia face discrimination from employers, friends, family, and the judicial system, while dealing with the ongoing stress of living with an unpredictable disease and an uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, employers could support their employees with Fibromyalgia by making adaptations to the work environment, so that people with Fibromyalgia could continue to function at work and not be forced to file for disability; and

WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association is a nonprofit charitable organization and publisher of *Fibromyalgia AWARE*, the first and only consumer magazine that focuses on issues pertinent to Fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association and Fibromyalgia support groups throughout Tennessee and around our country have joined together to promote Fibromyalgia awareness and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, understanding this illness will help guarantee a better future for people with Fibromyalgia; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee designates May 12, 2008, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in recognition of our support for National Fibromyalgia Association and other groups' ongoing efforts to search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disease on a daily basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.