

A RESOLUTION concerning sarcoidosis.

WHEREAS, in this country, sarcoidosis occurs primarily in the southeastern states;

WHEREAS, is a disease for which the origin and cure are unknown, and

WHEREAS, often misdiagnosed and its victims misunderstood, sarcoidosis is characterized by the formation of inflamed tissue which can attack and cause permanent damage to any organ within the body; and

WHEREAS, approximately 300,000 Tennesseans, the majority of whom are African Americans and/or female, are afflicted with this debilitating disease; and

WHEREAS, there is tremendous need for research initiatives to offer alternatives to current forms of treatment, to develop more sensitive methods of diagnosis, and ultimately to find a cure for this mysterious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Sarcoidosis Research Institute, Memphis, is the only entity located within Tennessee which provides patient services, public awareness, and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, despite the critical shortage of funding, the Sarcoidosis Research Institute, in collaboration with the University of Tennessee and the National Institutes of Health, is seeking more innovative methods of treatment and a cure for this widespread and debilitating disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this body hereby requests the General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee of the Senate and the Health and Human Resources Committee of the House of Representatives to

jointly examine and evaluate the programs and activities of the Sarcoidosis Research Institute, Memphis, and to determine the desirability and feasibility of providing state grants to the institute to help address sarcoidosis issues in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committees submit their joint report not later than January 9, 1996, for action by the General Assembly.

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