ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 13

By: Haney of the Senate

and

Ervin of the House

A Concurrent Resolution urging Oklahoma citizens to be aware of the symptoms of Marfan syndrome; declaring February as Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Marfan syndrome is a rare, inherited disorder of connective tissue that results in abnormalities of the skeleton, heart, blood vessels and eyes. The incidence of Marfan syndrome is about ten cases per 100,000 people. Fibrillin, a gene component located on chromosome 15, has been pinpointed as the basic cause of the disorder. However, to date, each family with the Marfan syndrome has had a different mutation. Researchers are currently working for a single diagnostic test for the disorder, and for a cure. While there is no cure for the disorder yet, the physical manifestations of Marfan syndrome can be treated. Thus, early diagnosis, subsequent treatment and lifestyle modifications are vital for the well-being of those afflicted with the disorder; and

WHEREAS, affected people grow very tall and thin, the fingers are long and spidery, the chest and spine are often deformed and the tendons, ligaments and joint capsules are weak, leaving the sufferer double-jointed and prone to joint dislocation; and

WHEREAS, there are no specific diagnostic tests for the syndrome. The valve of the heart may be examined for deformities, because the heart or aorta is abnormal in 90 percent of the cases.

An eye examination may also be used as a diagnostic tool because in 60 percent of sufferers the lens of the eye is dislocated; and

WHEREAS, orthopedic braces or surgery may be required to correct spinal deformity. Beta blockers may help control heart problems, but heart surgery is sometimes necessary; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 40,000 people in the United States have Marfan syndrome. It is believed that President Abraham Lincoln suffered from this disease. 1984 U.S. Olympic Volleyball star Flo Hyman did have Marfan syndrome but was not diagnosed until after she died from the disorder; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and careful management of a Marfan syndrome patient are essential. Looking for the signs of Marfan syndrome could lead to early diagnosis which will prolong or save the patient's life. Seeking early treatment could increase the survival rate and make life more comfortable for the sufferer; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is the first state in the Union to declare a Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month. There are more than 130 Oklahomans on the mailing list of the National Marfan Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature urges its citizens to be aware of the symptoms of Marfan syndrome. Any Oklahoman with questions about Marfan syndrome is urged to contact the National Marfan Foundation at 800-8-MARFAN or 382 Main Street, Port Washington, New York 11050.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature declares February as Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of Oklahoma for 1996 and all following years, coinciding with National Marfan Syndrome Awareness Month.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the National Marfan Foundation.

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of March, 1995.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives