

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1077

By: Gilbert of the House

and

Leftwich of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of finding the cause and cure for scleroderma; proclaiming March 28, 2000, "Scleroderma Awareness Day"; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the human body's ability to repair itself sometimes seems miraculous whether it involves the mending of a broken bone or the healing of a cut; and

WHEREAS, in the case of the chronic, autoimmune connective-tissue disease called scleroderma, the body's wound-healing process somehow goes out of control producing scarring that has the potential to disfigure or cause severe damage to organs; and

WHEREAS, approximately 300,000 people in the United States have scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, over the past 5 years more than 50 Oklahoma residents have died from complications of scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 at least 240 Oklahoma residents have been diagnosed and are living with the disability and pain caused by scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, women are three to four times more likely to get scleroderma than men. Scleroderma generally strikes young adults aged 20 through 40, attacking them in the prime of their lives; and

WHEREAS, many of the persons diagnosed with scleroderma experience tremendous suffering and pain, disability and sometimes death; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental cause and cure for this debilitating disease remains unknown; and

WHEREAS, due to the inherent difficulty of diagnosis of scleroderma because of its similarity to other diseases and generally poor clinical awareness of the disease, many persons suffer deformities, impairment and disabilities before it has been diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, the field of scleroderma research has for decades suffered from low funding levels and a poor basic science platform from which to identify opportunities for progress; and

WHEREAS, finding the cause and developing a method of prevention for scleroderma and an awareness and early diagnosis is an important task that all Americans and Oklahomans should support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the importance of finding the cause and cure for scleroderma, a terribly perplexing and painful disease which affects hundreds of thousands of Americans, including many Oklahomans.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature proclaims March 28, 2000, as "Scleroderma Awareness Day" and encourages the citizens of this great state to join in the fight to end this devastating disease.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the National Scleroderma Foundation, the Oklahoma Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, the Oklahoma Medical Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and the Oklahoma Nurses Association.

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