

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 61

By: Branan, Aldridge, Brogdon,
Cain, Capps, Coates,
Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield,
Dunlap, Easley (Mary),
Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gumm,
Harrison, Helton, Hobson,
Horner, Johnson, Kerr,
Laster, Laughlin, Lawler,
Leftwich (Debbe),
Lerblance, Littlefield,
Maddox, Milacek, Monson,
Morgan, Myers, Nichols,
Price, Pruitt, Rabon,
Reynolds, Riley, Robinson,
Rozell, Shurden, Smith,
Snyder, Taylor, Wilcoxson,
Wilkerson, Williams and
Williamson

A Resolution declaring May 2004 Arthritis Awareness
Month; urging support of arthritis-related
activities; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 70 million Americans, including 726,000 Oklahomans (28% of Oklahoma's population), 18 years of age and older who live with the challenges of arthritis and related conditions, including scleroderma, lupus, gout, and fibromyalgia; and;

WHEREAS, arthritis costs Americans nearly \$86.2 billion (\$51.1 billion in direct costs and \$35.1 billion in indirect costs) annually. Annual costs to Oklahomans are estimated to be \$1.2 billion (\$726 million in direct costs and \$499 million in indirect costs); and

WHEREAS, arthritis is the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of work disability; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based education, such as the Arthritis Self Help Course, has been shown to reduce doctor visits for arthritis patients by 40% with an estimated savings of \$320 per person over four years, and to decrease pain by 20%, thereby improving the quality of life of those impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Arthritis Foundation's mission is to improve lives through leadership in the prevention, control, and cure of arthritis and related diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Arthritis Network, established in 1999, is a collaborative partnership among health professionals, people with arthritis, business leaders, educators, as well as private and public organizations working at a community level to reduce the burden of arthritis and related conditions on Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Arthritis Network's mission is to increase public awareness about arthritis and related conditions and to maximize the quality of life for Oklahomans affected by these conditions through the development of resources, the promotion of access to appropriate health care management, and the provision of education; and

WHEREAS, the month of May 2004, as National Arthritis Month, brings a focused effort - urging people to take control of their arthritis, take preventive measures against the painful and disabling effects of arthritis, and modify their lifestyles and activities for optimum health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate declares May 2004 Arthritis Awareness Month in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges all citizens to join in the support of the Arthritis Foundation, the State Department of Health, and the Oklahoma Arthritis Network and their activities to educate about arthritis, provide services to those affected by arthritis, and implement programs to reduce the prevalence of arthritis in our state.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Arthritis Foundation, the State Department of Health, and the Oklahoma Arthritis Network.

Adopted by the Senate the 26th day of April, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the Senate