

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1027

By: Gilbert

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution declaring May 2007 as Autoimmune Disease
9 and Scleroderma Awareness Month; and directing
10 distribution.

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12 WHEREAS, scleroderma is an autoimmune disease that is a chronic
13 condition affecting connective tissue in its victims; and

14 WHEREAS, scleroderma causes the body to attack its own organs
15 and tissues and can be disabling; and

16 WHEREAS, the disease is not directly inherited but some
17 scientists believe there may be a slight predisposition to it in
18 some families with a history of rheumatic diseases; and

19 WHEREAS, the disease is not contagious, infectious, cancerous or
20 malignant; and

21 WHEREAS, scleroderma can be found in every age group from
22 infants to the elderly with the average age of onset being between
23 25 and 55 years of age; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 300,000 people in the United
2 States who have scleroderma and about one-third of those have the
3 systemic form of the disease; and

4 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health estimates that
5 autoimmune diseases affect up to 23.5 million Americans, 75% of whom
6 are female, and that the prevalence of autoimmune diseases is
7 rising; and

8 WHEREAS, scleroderma is often difficult to diagnose because the
9 symptoms of the disease are often similar to other autoimmune
10 diseases and it is often misdiagnosed or undiagnosed resulting in
11 numerous tests and delayed treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, the exact cause of scleroderma is not known and there
13 is no cure for the disease. Standard treatment does not exist and
14 treatment only addresses symptoms of the disease; and

15 WHEREAS, the 110th Congress is designating May 2007 as "National
16 Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to
17 increase awareness of autoimmune diseases and increase funding for
18 autoimmune disease research.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

21 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives supports the efforts
22 of health care providers and autoimmune patient advocacy and
23 education organizations to increase awareness of autoimmune diseases

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1 and supports the goal of increasing federal funding for autoimmune
2 disease research.

3 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives declares May 2007 as
4 Autoimmune Disease and Scleroderma Awareness Month in Oklahoma.

5 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
6 Medical Research Foundation, the Choctaw Scleroderma Foundation, the
7 Scleroderma Foundation and to members of the Oklahoma Congressional
8 Delegation.

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10 51-1-7958 MG 04/23/07

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