

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
March 4, 2010

House Concurrent  
Resolution No. 1053

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1053 - By: WRIGHT (HAROLD) of the House.

A Concurrent Resolution proclaiming the third full week of September 2010 “Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week”; urging education about the disease and participation in certain activities program; and directing distribution.

1       WHEREAS, mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a person’s body and  
2 create more than ninety percent (90%) of the energy needed by the body to sustain life  
3 and support growth; and

4       WHEREAS, mitochondria may not function correctly due to genetic defects, damage  
5 caused by drugs or damage caused by destructive molecules called free radicals; and

6       WHEREAS, when mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death follow, and if the  
7 process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail; and

8       WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms like seizures, low  
9 blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure and progressive muscle  
10 weakness, but more often the diseases cause failure of several organ systems in  
11 sequence; and

1           WHEREAS, mitochondrial dysfunction is implicated in Alzheimer’s Dementia,  
2   Parkinson disease, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, osteoporosis, cancer, and the  
3   aging process itself; and

4           WHEREAS, although mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at any age, it is  
5   estimated that more than one in four thousand children born in the United States each  
6   year will develop a mitochondrial disease by ten years of age; and

7           WHEREAS, since mitochondrial disorders mimic other diseases, it is believed that  
8   the disorders are underdiagnosed; and

9           WHEREAS, currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but early diagnosis can  
10   help patients and their families use proper medication and nutritional supplements to  
11   improve the quality of life of patients, and even prolong life; and

12          WHEREAS, it is vitally important that all citizens of the State of Oklahoma be  
13   better informed about mitochondrial diseases and their impact.

14          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA  
16   LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

17          THAT the Oklahoma Legislature proclaims the third full week of September 2010  
18   “Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week” in the State of Oklahoma.

19          THAT the Oklahoma Legislature strongly urges the citizens of Oklahoma to observe  
20   this week by educating themselves about mitochondrial diseases and their impact, and  
21   by participating in and supporting research, education, community activities and  
22   programs.

- 1            THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the United Mitochondrial Disease
- 2    Foundation.
- 3    DIRECT TO CALENDAR.