

1 HJR61
2 166038-1
3 By Representatives Ball, Williams (P) and Patterson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-MAR-15

8 URGING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
9 PREVENTION TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS,
10 AND TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.

11
12 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne
13 illness in the United States, with the Centers for Disease
14 Control and Prevention (CDC) estimating that 300,000 Americans
15 are diagnosed with the disease each year; and

16 WHEREAS, many cases of Lyme disease are never
17 reported to the CDC, as only approximately 30,000 of the
18 estimated 300,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the
19 CDC by state health departments each year; and

20 WHEREAS, Lyme disease can cause devastating health
21 consequences if left untreated, such as severe pain, heart
22 palpitations, and chronic neurological damage; and

23 WHEREAS, diagnosis of Lyme disease is difficult
24 because there is no general consensus on the definition of its
25 symptoms and the symptoms are similar to those of other
26 conditions, leading to misdiagnoses. Further, current Lyme
27 disease testing methods often lead to inaccurate results; and

1 WHEREAS, there remains much debate in the medical
2 community concerning the proper courses of action for
3 diagnosing and for treating Lyme disease; and

4 WHEREAS, greater knowledge of Lyme disease and its
5 causes will put the general public in a better position to
6 avoid contracting the disease; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the CDC to take all of
9 the following actions:

10 (1) Update definitions of Lyme disease symptoms by
11 clinical diagnosis.

12 (2) Reconsider standards and best practices for
13 diagnosing and treating Lyme disease.

14 (3) Provide more resources for health care
15 professionals and the general public to learn about Lyme
16 disease to aid in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of
17 the disease.

18 (4) Improve the techniques that state and local
19 public health agencies use to report cases of Lyme disease
20 diagnoses so that fewer cases go unreported and the CDC can
21 better monitor the incidence of the disease across the nation.

22 (5) Provide the means for improved laboratory
23 testing or funding for improved laboratory testing to enhance
24 early detection of Lyme disease in humans.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
26 resolution is transmitted to the Director of the Centers for

1 Disease Control and Prevention and the members of the Alabama
2 Congressional Delegation.