

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 URGING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
4 PREVENTION TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS,
5 AND TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.

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7 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne
8 illness in the United States, with the Centers for Disease
9 Control and Prevention (CDC) estimating that 300,000 Americans
10 are diagnosed with the disease each year; and

11 WHEREAS, many cases of Lyme disease are never
12 reported to the CDC, as only approximately 30,000 of the
13 estimated 300,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the
14 CDC by state health departments each year; and

15 WHEREAS, Lyme disease can cause devastating health
16 consequences if left untreated, such as severe pain, heart
17 palpitations, and chronic neurological damage; and

18 WHEREAS, diagnosis of Lyme disease is difficult
19 because there is no general consensus on the definition of its
20 symptoms and the symptoms are similar to those of other
21 conditions, leading to misdiagnoses. Further, current Lyme
22 disease testing methods often lead to inaccurate results; and

23 WHEREAS, there remains much debate in the medical
24 community concerning the proper courses of action for
25 diagnosing and for treating Lyme disease; and

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

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

7 (1) Update definitions of Lyme disease symptoms by
8 clinical diagnosis.

9 (2) Reconsider standards and best practices for
10 diagnosing and treating Lyme disease.

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

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

19 (5) Provide the means for improved laboratory
20 testing or funding for improved laboratory testing to enhance
21 early detection of Lyme disease in humans.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
23 resolution is transmitted to the Director of the Centers for
24 Disease Control and Prevention and the members of the Alabama
25 Congressional Delegation.

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
9 and was adopted by the House 09-APR-15.

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Jeff Woodard
Clerk

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Senate 30-APR-15 Adopted