

Reps. Roberts, Ball, Booher, Lisa Brown, Terry Brown, Constan, Dean, Durhal, Geiss, Hansen, Haugh, Lemmons, Liss, Mayes, Meltzer, Neumann, Polidori, Sheltroun, Spade, Tlaib, Valentine, Huckleberry, Marleau, Cushingberry, Green, Lahti and Nathan offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 155.

A resolution to memorialize the United States Congress to increase the appropriation of funds for research related to Lyme disease prevention and treatment.

Whereas, Lyme disease is caused by infection with a bacteria usually obtained from the bite of an infected tick and is the most prevalent vector-borne disease in the United States. Early signs of the disease may include a rash and flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue. Although Lyme disease accounts for 90 percent of all vector-borne infections in the United States, the ticks that spread Lyme disease also spread other diseases; and

Whereas, Statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveal that Lyme disease has been reported in 49 States and the District of Columbia, and cases have increased significantly in the last decade. In 2007, 27,444 cases of Lyme disease were reported across the country, while in 1998, there were 16,802 cases nationwide. Many cases of Lyme disease go unreported, as studies suggest that the actual number of cases is approximately 10 times the number reported; and

Whereas, Lyme disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics in its early stages. However, the disease often goes undetected because it mimics other illnesses or is misdiagnosed. Untreated, Lyme disease can affect many different organs and organ systems and lead to severe heart, neurological, eye, and joint problems. If not caught early and treated properly, Lyme disease can cause prolonged chronic illness; and

Whereas, We need to focus national attention and provide funds for research on this significant and complex disease. There is a considerable need for more research into Lyme disease detection, surveillance, prevention, and treatment. Physician education and scientific conferences focusing on Lyme disease are needed to ensure that doctors can accurately diagnose the disease and provide timely treatment. Public education and awareness should also be increased to help prevent Lyme disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to increase the appropriation of funds for research related to Lyme disease prevention and treatment; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.