

Rep. Theis offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 388.

A resolution to recognize myalgic encephalomyelitis as a serious, debilitating disease and urge key entities to improve patient care, prioritize new research, educate health professionals, and raise awareness about the severity of the disease.

Whereas, Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, has been found by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to be "a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected patients," leaving them with a lower quality of life than others without ME/CFS; and

Whereas, More than 41,500 Michigan residents of all ages, races, and genders are believed to be afflicted with ME/CFS. An estimated 836,000 to 2.5 million Americans and 17 million individuals worldwide are afflicted; and

Whereas, ME/CFS persists for years or even decades because of a lack of treatments, leaving one quarter of patients homebound or bedbound. Many students with the disease are unable to attend school, and 50 to 75 percent of ME/CFS patients are unable to work, resulting in an annual economic burden of \$17 million to \$24 million in medical expenses and lost productivity; and

Whereas, The NAM noted a lack of knowledge about the disease due to a "paucity of research" and "remarkably little research funding," and concluded that "more research is essential"; and

Whereas, The NAM noted that the medical community "generally still doubts the existence or seriousness of this disease," and patients have difficulty being diagnosed or accessing quality medical care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we:

- Recognize that myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a tragic, disabling disease that destroys the lives of many patients and takes a severe toll on their families, friends, and caretakers;
- Recognize and affirm the commitment of the state of Michigan to improving the availability and quality of medical and supportive care for ME/CFS patients;
- Recommend that the National Institutes of Health fund ME/CFS research at a level commensurate with similarly burdensome diseases;
- Encourage universities in Michigan to focus research attention on this underserved disease;
- Recommend that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention disseminate new ME/CFS medical education that is updated in accordance with recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and disease experts; and
- Encourage media organizations to inform the public about the seriousness of the disease; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and the Michigan Association of State Universities.