

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Reps. Whitsett, Jones and Eisen offered the following concurrent resolution:

1       A concurrent resolution to urge the Centers for Disease  
2 Control and Prevention and the Michigan Department of Health and  
3 Human Services to protect the people of Michigan from Lyme disease  
4 by improving efforts to prevent, monitor, diagnose, and treat the  
5 disease.

6       Whereas, Lyme disease is a serious, tick-borne illness caused  
7 by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, resulting in symptoms  
8 including headache, fatigue, fever, and the characteristic bullseye  
9 rash. If left untreated, the disease can spread throughout the body  
10 to joints, the heart, and the nervous system causing arthritis,  
11 pain, heart palpitations, and even facial paralysis; and

12       Whereas, Previously rare in Michigan, Lyme disease is now a  
13 growing concern for Michigan residents. The prevalence of Lyme



1 disease in Michigan has expanded rapidly in the past two decades  
2 with more than ten times as many cases reported in 2017 than in the  
3 early 2000s; and

4       Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
5 (CDC) definitions of Lyme disease symptoms and recommendations for  
6 diagnosing and treating the disease are outdated and need to be  
7 updated to improve the ability of health professionals to detect  
8 and treat the disease. The misdiagnosis and delayed treatment of  
9 Lyme disease have serious consequences for those affected; and

10       Whereas, A lack of federal funding for Lyme disease research  
11 and monitoring hampers Michigan's ability to prevent and cure the  
12 disease. Nearly 80 percent of the conditions and diseases that  
13 receive annual funding from the National Institutes of Health  
14 receive more than Lyme disease. Additional funding to improve the  
15 accuracy and precision of laboratory testing methods would  
16 significantly enhance the early detection of Lyme disease in  
17 humans; and

18       Whereas, Additional education and outreach efforts by the  
19 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are necessary to  
20 better protect the public from the consequences of this disease. It  
21 is imperative that health professionals and the public recognize  
22 the symptoms of Lyme disease to ensure timely and proper treatment;  
23 and

24       Whereas, A lack of reporting makes it challenging to  
25 effectively monitor and address Lyme disease. Since 1991, state and  
26 local health departments have been required to report disease cases  
27 to the CDC, but of an estimated 300,000 people annually diagnosed,  
28 only 30,000 cases are reported; now, therefore, be it

29       Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate



1 concurring), That we urge the Centers for Disease Control and  
2 Prevention to update its definition of Lyme disease symptoms,  
3 reconsider standards and best practices for diagnosing and treating  
4 the disease, increase funding to prevent and cure the disease, and  
5 provide the means for improved laboratory testing to detect Lyme  
6 disease; and be it further

7       Resolved, That we urge the Michigan Department of Health and  
8 Human Services to improve the techniques that state and local  
9 health departments use to report Lyme disease and to provide more  
10 resources to educate health professionals and the general public  
11 about Lyme disease to support prevention, diagnosis, and treatment;  
12 and be it further

13       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
14 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the  
15 Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.