

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 73**

Introduced by Chambers, 11

Read first time April 12, 2007

Committee: Health And Human Services

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a common but frequently misunderstood illness that, if not caught early and treated properly, can cause serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is usually transmitted by a tick bite, and early signs of infection may include a rash and flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue; and

WHEREAS, although Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics if caught early, the disease often goes undetected because it mimics other illnesses or may be misdiagnosed and, if untreated, can lead to severe heart, neurological, vision, and joint problems, because the bacteria can affect many different organs and organ systems; and

WHEREAS, although Lyme disease accounts for 95 percent of all vector-borne infections in the United States, the ticks that spread the disease also spread other diseases such as ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that the Lyme disease reported cases are only 10 percent of actual cases that meet its surveillance criteria; and

WHEREAS, the persistence of symptomatology in many patients without reliable testing makes treatment of patients more difficult; and

WHEREAS, the "Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2007" has been introduced in the 110th Congress as H.R.741; and

WHEREAS, the "Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2007" would advance the treatment of, and cure for, Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by expanding federal efforts concerning prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, providing authorization for the appropriation of \$20 million for each of the federal fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for these activities and requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to annually report to Congress on these activities and make recommendations for further research and education, and establishing a Tick-borne Diseases Advisory Committee within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature respectfully encourages the United States Congress to enact the "Lyme and Tick-borne Disease

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Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2007" which is currently pending in the Congress as H.R.741 and any subsequent companion bill passed in the United States Senate.

2. That each member of Nebraska's congressional delegation receive a copy of this resolution.