

House Concurrent Resolution No. 27

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4977L.011

1 **Whereas**, fibromyalgia is a significant health problem affecting over five million
2 adults nationwide. It is six times more prevalent than muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis,
3 leukemia, and multiple sclerosis combined; and
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5 **Whereas**, fibromyalgia is a disabling pain condition. Its symptoms are chronic,
6 and include pain, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, migraine headaches, and impairment of
7 memory and concentration; and
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9 **Whereas**, the average fibromyalgia patient suffers for an average of five years prior
10 to obtaining a correct diagnosis, resulting in a worsened condition that is more debilitating and
11 more difficult and expensive to treat; and
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13 **Whereas**, fibromyalgia patients are often misunderstood by family members,
14 employers, and physicians as malingerers, depressives, and hypochondriacs due to inadequate
15 knowledge of fibromyalgia. While the condition may be mistakenly thought of by some as a
16 mental health disorder, it is actually a pain condition as defined by the American College of
17 Rheumatology and should be treated as such. Fibromyalgia patients look normal and can
18 function normally for short periods of time, but quickly experience debilitating pain and fatigue;
19 and
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21 **Whereas**, fibromyalgia is costly to the state. An estimated one billion dollars in
22 medical expenses, lost wages, and associated economic costs can be attributed nationwide to the
23 disease. It is also costly in social terms to families and children, as 90% of fibromyalgia patients
24 are women; and
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26 **Whereas**, evidence indicates that the incidence of fibromyalgia may be increasing
27 at a rapid rate:

28 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
29 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
30 concurring therein, hereby support the establishment of the Missouri Fibromyalgia Awareness
31 Initiative Program to do all of the following:

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33 (1) Promote public awareness regarding fibromyalgia, a widespread but poorly
34 understood disease;

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36 (2) Promote understanding of the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment and
37 management;

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39 (3) Promote the delivery of appropriate information, programs, and services;

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41 (4) Encourage research into the nature, cause, and treatment of this debilitating disease.
42 Currently there is no laboratory test for detecting fibromyalgia;

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44 (5) Promote open access to accepted treatments for fibromyalgia and distribution of
45 information about how patients can gain access to those therapies; and

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47 (6) Require an assessment, including the potential implications for use of different types
48 of controlled substances and abuse of other substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs; and

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50 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Governor
52 Matt Blunt and the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services.