

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1875

A RESOLUTION designating September 19-26, 2010, and September 18-25, 2011, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Weeks.

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is an under-recognized and misunderstood disease which has only recently been diagnosed in children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease results when there is a defect that reduces the ability of the mitochondria in virtually every cell to produce needed energy for the cell to function properly. This failure to produce energy results in a severe failure of major organ systems, and the compromise or end of life; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 40 specifically identified mitochondrial diseases, but the vast majority have not yet been identified; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease may be due to genetics, environment, or some combination of the two factors, and most likely a genetic predisposition to an environmental cause in the individual suffering from mitochondrial disease; and

WHEREAS, Every 30 minutes, a child is born with mitochondrial disease; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases may present themselves at any age, but more than half of those affected by the disease are children who show symptoms before five years of age and approximately 80% of whom will not survive beyond 20 years of age; and

WHEREAS, There are no cures for any of the specifically identified mitochondrial diseases; and

WHEREAS, Early treatment of symptoms of mitochondrial diseases may reduce the impact of symptoms and limit further disability; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of mitochondrial disease will promote an enhanced research effort aimed at improved understanding of the disease and dysfunction and the development of treatments for mitochondrial disease: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we designate September 19-26, 2010, and September 18-25, 2011, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Weeks to improve the quality of life of those children and adults affected by this devastating disease; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Pam Johnson, M.D., President of the Kansas City Chapter of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, 370 Terrace Trail West, Lake Quivira, Kansas 66217.

Senate Resolution No. 1875 was sponsored by Senator Mary Pilcher Cook.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

---

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*