

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 989

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION relative to Type 1 Diabetes (Juvenile Diabetes)  
Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease in which a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables a person to get energy from food; it occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, called beta cells; and

WHEREAS, while its causes are not yet entirely understood, scientists believe that both genetic factors and environmental triggers are involved; the onset of T1D has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle; there is nothing one can do to prevent T1D, and, at present, nothing one can do to get rid of it; and

WHEREAS, Type 1 diabetes strikes both children and adults at any age; it comes on suddenly, causes dependence on injected or pumped insulin for life, and carries the constant threat of devastating complications; and

WHEREAS, 1.25 million Americans are living with T1D, including about 200,000 youth and over one million adults; T1D-associated health care costs in the U.S. total \$14 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, 40,000 people are diagnosed each year in the U.S., and five million people in the U.S. are expected to have T1D by 2050, including nearly 600,000 youth; and

WHEREAS, between 2001 and 2009 there was a twenty-one percent increase in the prevalence of T1D in people under the age of twenty; and

WHEREAS, living with T1D is a constant challenge, as people with the disease must carefully balance insulin doses with eating and other activities throughout the day and night;

they must also measure their blood-glucose level by pricking their fingers for blood six or more times a day; and

WHEREAS, despite this constant attention, people with T1D still run the risk of dangerous high or low blood-glucose levels, both of which can be life threatening, yet people with T1D overcome these challenges on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, less than one-third of people with T1D in the U.S. are achieving target blood-glucose control levels; and

WHEREAS, while insulin injections or infusion allow a person with T1D to stay alive, they do not cure the disease, nor do they necessarily prevent the possibility of the disease's serious effects, which may include kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, heart attack, stroke, and pregnancy complications; and

WHEREAS, T1D is associated with an estimated loss of life expectancy of up to thirteen years; and

WHEREAS, although T1D is a serious and difficult disease, treatment options are improving all the time, and people with T1D can lead full and active lives; and

WHEREAS, various organizations are driving research to progressively remove the impact of the disease from people's lives until we ultimately achieve a world without T1D; and

WHEREAS, raising public awareness is a vital step in disseminating information about T1D and providing adequate funding for improved treatment protocols and research to find a cure therefor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the American Diabetes Association in commemorating November 2016 as Type 1 Diabetes (Juvenile Diabetes) Awareness Month and express our admiration for the courage and perseverance displayed by people living with T1D on a daily basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.