

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

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2001 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Boutin, Owings, Frush, Klausmeier, Stull, Nathan-Pulliam,
Hammen, Oaks, Parrott, James, Riley, and Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Awareness Month**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor and encouraging the United States
4 Congress to designate October as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome
5 Awareness Month; encouraging the federal government to develop programs
6 relating to Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome; and generally relating to
7 Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome.

8 WHEREAS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS), also known as
9 Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, is an extremely painful progressive chronic
10 disease of the nervous system resulting from a simple trauma, infection, or surgery
11 that can lead to chronic inflammation, spasms, burning pain, stiffness, pathological
12 changes in skin and bone, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity
13 to touch; and

14 WHEREAS, RSDS currently afflicts an estimated 7 million children and adults
15 in the United States and approximately 133,000 in Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, RSDS can strike at any time and is a complex and little known
17 disease; and

18 WHEREAS, RSDS can strike at any age but is more common between the ages
19 of 40 and 60; and

20 WHEREAS, RSDS is often misdiagnosed and treatment is delayed because it is
21 misdiagnosed; and

22 WHEREAS, The early treatment of RSDS often results in a remission of the
23 disease symptoms; and

24 WHEREAS, If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly spread causing
25 irreversible changes in bone and muscle and severe physical and psychological
26 problems; and

27 WHEREAS, Treatment includes multiple medications and procedures that may
28 be prohibitively expensive; and

1 WHEREAS, RSDS is recognized by the National Institute of Neurological
2 Disorders and Stroke which supports and conducts research relevant to RSDS; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the federal
5 government is encouraged to promote programs that will increase awareness, early
6 detection, research, and treatment of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the United States Congress is encouraged to designate
9 October of each year as National Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Awareness
10 Month; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Governor is requested to designate October of each year
12 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Awareness Month; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
14 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
15 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
16 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates, and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
18 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
19 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;
20 and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin,
21 Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and
22 Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.