House Resolution

A resolution designating May 12, 1999, as

"Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue

Syndrome Awareness Day" in the State of

Florida.

WHEREAS, chronic immunological and neurological diseases such as Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome are some of the fastest growing health concerns in the world today, attacking men and women of all ages,

ethnicity, and socio-economic backgrounds, and children, and

WHEREAS, these devastating disorders are often characterized by overwhelming fatigue, severe musculoskeletal pain, concentration problems, sleep disorders, cognitive and memory dysfunction, headaches, allergy symptoms, and numerous other problems that usually last a lifetime, and

WHEREAS, these perplexing medical conditions are often considered invisible disabilities due to the nature of their symptoms, symptoms that do not always appear obvious to the common observer, and

WHEREAS, these illnesses have no known cure and are often further complicated by secondary, coexisting conditions that contribute to additional stress for patients who experience difficulty in performing everyday activities associated with home, family, and community, and

WHEREAS, these chronic and debilitating medical conditions interrupt education and employment, denying the basic enjoyment of life and causing the accumulation of tremendous medical expenses, often increasing the need for patients to file for Social Security Disability Income, and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control are investigating and attempting to document the concentration, extent, and causes of these syndromes, with the hope of finding a cure, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes the extent to which many of its citizens suffer with these chronic and often severely debilitating medical conditions, causing them to significantly modify their lives in order to at least minimally cope on a daily basis, and is pleased to join with these patients in devoting a special day to increasing knowledge and understanding about these illnesses, and in supporting valuable medical research into their cause and eventual cure, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That the House of Representatives of the State of Florida hereby designates May 12, 1999, as "Fibromyalgia Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.