

HR 8075

2021

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating May 2021 as "Myalgic
3 Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness
4 Month" and May 12, 2021, as "Myalgic
5 Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness
6 Day" in Florida.

7
8 WHEREAS, Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as
9 chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or (ME/CFS), is a neuroimmune
10 disease characterized by overwhelming fatigue, neurological
11 impairment, pain, postexertional malaise, headaches, cardiac
12 symptoms, immune dysfunction, hypometabolism, lack of energy
13 production at a cellular level, orthostatic intolerance, severe
14 dizziness and balance problems, increased morbidity, and a
15 higher risk of suicide due to a lack of study within the medical
16 community which has resulted in a lack of available treatments,
17 and

18 WHEREAS, ME/CFS has been found by the National Academy of
19 Medicine (NAM) to be "a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic
20 disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities
21 of affected patients" producing a lower quality of life than
22 multiple sclerosis, stroke, renal failure, heart failure, and
23 other chronic diseases, and

24 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 17 million patients
25 afflicted with ME/CFS worldwide, with 836,000 to 2.5 million

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26 | patients in the United States and a number of reported cases in
27 | Florida, and

28 | WHEREAS, ME/CFS is predominantly a postinfectious disease,
29 | with nearly 75 percent of patients developing chronic disease
30 | following acute infections, and

31 | WHEREAS, coronaviruses and other viral pathogens can
32 | trigger ME/CFS and experts are estimating significant surges in
33 | ME/CFS cases following the COVID-19 pandemic, and

34 | WHEREAS, ME/CFS persists for years or a lifetime, leaving
35 | many patients housebound or bedbound, with the most severely
36 | affected unable to speak, eat, or process sound or light, and
37 | most unable to attend school or work, and

38 | WHEREAS, NAM noted that the medical community "generally
39 | still doubts the existence or seriousness of this disease" and
40 | patients have difficulty getting diagnosed or accessing quality
41 | medical care, given only a dozen United States clinical research
42 | facilities serve 1 million to 2.5 million ME/CFS patients, and

43 | WHEREAS, there is still no treatment approved by the United
44 | States Food and Drug Administration for ME/CFS and almost no
45 | treatment trials, NOW, THEREFORE,

46 |

47 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
48 | Florida:

49 |

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50 That May 2021 is designated as "Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/
51 Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Month" and May 12, 2021, is
52 designated as "Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue
53 Syndrome Awareness Day" in Florida to spread awareness of the
54 disease.