

House Resolution 170

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Hawkins of the 27th, Tarvin of the 2nd, Lott of the 122nd, and Jones of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging state agencies, medical service providers, health care agencies, research facilities,
2 medical schools, and all interested parties to work toward increasing research, clinical care,
3 and medical education for myalgic encephalomyelitis; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, has been
5 found by the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine to be a serious, chronic,
6 complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of
7 affected patients; and

8 WHEREAS, between 32,000 and 79,000 Georgia residents of all ages, races, and sexes are
9 believed to be afflicted with chronic fatigue syndrome, with an estimated 17 million afflicted
10 worldwide; and

11 WHEREAS, it is a tragic, disabling disease that destroys the lives of many patients and
12 imposes a severe toll on their families, friends, and caretakers; and

13 WHEREAS, chronic fatigue syndrome is a chronic disease persisting for decades, with
14 one-quarter of patients housebound or bedridden, often for years, and half to three-quarters
15 of patients are unable to work or attend school; and

16 WHEREAS, medical expenses and lost productivity related to chronic fatigue syndrome cost
17 Georgia between \$75 million and \$685 million annually; and

18 WHEREAS, patients with this disease score more poorly on quality of life surveys than
19 patients with multiple sclerosis, stroke, renal failure, heart failure, and other chronic diseases;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the cause of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome is unknown,
22 there is no diagnostic test for it, and there is no FDA approved treatment for it; and

23 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 84 percent of those
24 with chronic fatigue syndrome are not diagnosed or are misdiagnosed; and

25 WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine has noted a paucity
26 of research to date, remarkably little research funding, that more research is essential, and
27 that the level of current research does not reflect disease burden, prevalence, and economic
28 cost to society; and

29 WHEREAS, patients, advocates, and researchers are stating the dire need for government
30 attention to this disease.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body affirm their commitment to improving medical and supportive care
33 for patients and recommend that further research for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic
34 fatigue syndrome be funded at a level commensurate with similarly prevalent diseases, that
35 education and awareness about it be increased, and that media organizations inform the
36 public about this disease.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 public and press.