

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 112

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION designating March 12, 2009, "World Kidney Day"
in the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, according to the National Kidney Foundation, roughly twenty-six million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD), and millions more are at risk of developing CKD; and

WHEREAS, CKD is a term applied to a range of conditions that damage the kidneys and thereby compromise their ability to function properly; since the kidneys work to filter waste from the body's blood stream, decreased kidney function can cause a build-up of potentially harmful substances and lead to a number of untoward health effects; and

WHEREAS, a list of those possible effects includes anemia, bone disorders, malnutrition, kidney failure, cardiovascular disease, and even death, but these are hardly inevitable results of CKD if diagnosis is swift and a thorough treatment regimen is quickly implemented and carefully followed; and

WHEREAS, despite its treatability, CKD often goes undiagnosed; while a recent study found that the incidence of CKD is increasing as the "Baby Boomer" generation ages and risk factors such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes become more common, researchers also know that the vast majority of CKD patients were unaware that they had the disease before they were officially diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, chronic kidney disease is often called a "silent killer" because sufferers all too often fail to realize that they have the condition until it has already reached its advanced stages; and

WHEREAS, one of the terrible ironies of CKD is this: a doctor or other health care professional only needs to conduct two fairly simple tests to determine whether or not a patient

has the disease. Informing the public and getting patients to come in for the tests constitute the most significant hurdles to improving outcomes for millions of actual and potential CKD sufferers; and

WHEREAS, informing the general public as to risk factors like lack of exercise and a high-sodium diet, in addition to those already noted, and convincing those at high risk to alter their behavior would be a giant stride in the direction of preventing, or at least ameliorating the negative effects of, chronic kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, state and local governmental entities can play a major role in helping citizens become better informed about CKD, and any such efforts would also aid health care professionals, who must diagnose the disease in a timely fashion in order to treat it effectively; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee can have a positive impact on the health of its citizens simply by raising the issue of CKD and thereby increasing awareness of this disease that affects so many and can kill so quietly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate March 12, 2009, as "World Kidney Day" in the State of Tennessee.

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