

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 259

By Ford

A RESOLUTION designating June 18, 2009, as "Lymphedema Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, lymphedema is an accumulation of lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the arms, legs, or other areas of the body and affects both men and women; and

WHEREAS, the swelling caused by lymphedema can lead to severe infection or loss of the use of limbs, and patients suffering from lymphedema must endure physical discomfort and disfigurement and cope with the distress caused by these symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the single largest group of people who get lymphedema are cancer patients, including breast, prostate, gynecological, head, neck, lung, sarcoma, and melanoma patients; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have indicated that 20 percent of breast cancer patients will get lymphedema after surgery and radiation; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, there are a reported 8.5 million Americans living after a diagnosis of cancer, of which about two million are breast cancer survivors; and

WHEREAS, no drug or effective surgical treatment for lymphedema currently exists; and

WHEREAS, research in all areas of lymphedema has been notably limited; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema, which has no cure and can occur anytime, has a severe financial, physical, and psychological impact on patients; and

WHEREAS, committed to informing the citizens of Tennessee of the importance of lymphedema treatment and research, and honoring those persons whose lives have been affected by lymphedema, this General Assembly has selected June 18, 2009, as "Lymphedema

Awareness Day" to honor the life of Thomas Hovatter who died as a result of complications of lymphedema on June 18; 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 June 18, 2009, as "Lymphedema Awareness Day" in Tennessee and encourage all medical facilities in the State to dedicate more time, energy, and funding to the diagnosing and treatment of the disease.

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