

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4615, by Representatives Ryu, Griffey, Kloba, Pollet, Walen, Duerr, and Callan

1 WHEREAS, Long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, have
2 experienced a disproportionate share of deaths during the COVID-19
3 pandemic, with recent data for Washington state showing COVID-19
4 cases in long-term care facilities account for five percent of the
5 state's total COVID-19 cases, but nearly 50 percent of all COVID-19
6 deaths in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Overall, COVID-19 has taken a disproportionate toll on
8 communities of color, with increased risk for infection, death, and
9 hospitalization; and

10 WHEREAS, Nursing homes with relatively high shares of Black or
11 Hispanic residents are more likely to have experienced COVID-19
12 deaths than nursing homes with lower shares of Black or Hispanic
13 residents; and

14 WHEREAS, Fall prevention strategies and timely bone health
15 screening, diagnosis, and treatment may help prevent fractures
16 leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays; and

17 WHEREAS, Osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for
18 more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, and breast cancer
19 combined; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, about 75,000 Americans move from the hospital
21 to a nursing home following a fracture and never return "home"; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 54,000,000 Americans age 50 and over have
2 osteoporosis or low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for
3 fractures; and

4 WHEREAS, One in every two women and one in every four men over
5 the age of 50 will break a bone due to osteoporosis in his or her
6 lifetime; and

7 WHEREAS, Annual osteoporosis costs for America's health care
8 system top \$19,000,000,000 and will double by 2050 as America's
9 population ages; and

10 WHEREAS, Substantial risk of osteoporosis has been reported in
11 persons of all ethnic backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Osteoporosis is a preventable and treatable disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Building strong bones throughout childhood and
14 adolescence can be the best defense against developing osteoporosis
15 later in life; and

16 WHEREAS, Only one in three Americans receives enough calcium in
17 his or her daily diet, a problem which is especially severe for
18 children and adolescents in critical years of bone development; and

19 WHEREAS, Optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can
20 be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight
21 bearing and muscle strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle
22 with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and

23 WHEREAS, A bone mineral density test can be performed to identify
24 osteoporosis and determine the risk for fractures and the severity of
25 the disease; and

26 WHEREAS, The month of May has been designated as National
27 Osteoporosis Month;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
29 recognize and appreciate the ideals, goals, and activities of
30 National Osteoporosis Month and encourage observation of appropriate
31 good health programs and activities with respect to preventing and
32 controlling osteoporosis.

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