

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. J. RES. 151

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 1994

Referred in the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating the week of April 10 through 16, 1994, as
“Primary Immune Deficiency Awareness Week”.

Whereas primary immune deficiency is a congenital defect in the immune system such that the body cannot adequately defend itself from infection;

Whereas primary immune deficiency is most often diagnosed in children and affects more children than leukemia and lymphoma combined;

Whereas primary immune deficiency is believed to effect 500,000 Americans and possibly more because the defect is often undiagnosed and misdiagnosed;

Whereas many forms of primary immune deficiency are inherited;

Whereas there are currently considered to be 70 forms of primary immune deficiency ranging from severe combined immune deficiency (which is fatal if untreated) to chronic

recurring infections and allergies that cannot be managed with prophylactic antibiotics;

Whereas the earliest symptoms of primary immune deficiency are easily confused with a number of common illnesses or infections so that physicians often fail to diagnose and treat the underlying problem;

Whereas once suspected, primary immune deficiency can be diagnosed through a series of blood screenings that test immune function;

Whereas early intervention and treatment can save lives and prevent permanent damage to lungs and other organs;

Whereas many forms of treatment are available once a specific diagnosis is made;

Whereas procedures such as bone marrow transplants may result in complete cure, and other treatments like monthly infusions of gamma globulin dramatically reduce a patient's risk of infections and enable the patient to lead a normal life;

Whereas patients may have long periods of normal health then suddenly be struck by severe fevers and infections;

Whereas lack of public awareness can lead to anxiety and leave families isolated and confused; and

Whereas education is essential to make the general public, health care professionals, employers, and insurers more knowledgeable about primary immune deficiency: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That the week of April 10 through 16, 1994, is designated

1 as “Primary Immune Deficiency Awareness Week”. The
2 President is authorized and requested to issue a proclama-
3 tion calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
4 serve the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies,
5 and activities.

Passed the Senate March 10 (legislative day, Feb-
ruary 22), 1994.

Attest:

WALTER J. STEWART,

Secretary.