

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 44

Designating the week beginning April 18, 1993, as "Primary Immune Deficiency Awareness Week".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning April 18, 1993, 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 five hundred thousand Americans and possibly more because people are undiagnosed and misdiagnosed;

Whereas many forms of primary immune deficiency are inherited;

Whereas there are currently considered to be seventy forms of primary immune deficiency ranging from SCVID which is fatal if left 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 which test immune function;

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

Whereas many forms of treatment are available once a specific diagnosis is made, procedures such as BMT may result in complete cure, and other treatments like monthly infusions of gamma globulin dramatically reduces a patient's risk of infections and enables him or her 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;

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 beginning April 18, 1993 is designated as
4 “Primary Immune Deficiency Awareness Week,” and the
5 President is authorized and requested to issue a proclama-
6 tion calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
7 serve such a week with appropriate programs, ceremonies
8 and activities.

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