H. Res. 398

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

October 1, 2002.

Whereas fragile X is the most common inherited cause of mental retardation, affecting people of every race, income level, and nationality;

Whereas 1 in every 267 women is a carrier of the fragile X;

Whereas children born with fragile X typically require a lifetime of special care at a cost of over $2,000,000 each;

Whereas fragile X frequently remains undetected because the defect was relatively recently discovered and there is a lack of awareness about the disease, even within the medical community;

Whereas the gene causing fragile X has been discovered and is easily identified by testing;

Whereas inquiry into fragile X is a powerful research model for neuropsychiatric disorders, such as autism, schizophrenia, pervasive developmental disorders, and other forms of X-chromosome-linked mental retardation;

Whereas individuals with fragile X can provide a homogeneous research population for advancing the understanding of neuropsychiatric disorders;

Whereas with concerted research efforts, a cure for fragile X may be developed;

Whereas fragile X research, both basic and applied, has been vastly underfunded despite the prevalence of the disorder, the potential for the development of a cure, the established benefits of available treatments and interventions, and the significance that fragile X research has for related disorders;

Whereas Members of Congress are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research and early diagnosis and treatment for fragile X; and

Whereas throughout the United States, families and friends of individuals with fragile X have designated October 5 as National Fragile X Research Day to promote efforts to find a treatment and cure for fragile X: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the devastating impact of fragile X on thousands of people in the United States and their families;

(2) calls on the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other sources of Federal and private research funds to enhance and increase their efforts and commitments to fragile X research;

(3) calls on medical schools and other health educators, medical societies and associations, and Federal, State, and local health care facilities to promote research that will lead to a treatment and cure for fragile X; and

(4) commends the goals and ideals of a National Fragile X Research Day and supports interested groups in conducting appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for such a day.

Attest:

Clerk.