

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1232

Expressing support for the designation of a National Scleroderma Awareness Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2008

Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of a National Scleroderma Awareness Month.

Whereas scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune disease in which the body's soft tissues suffer from an overproduction of collagen;

Whereas scleroderma can affect many parts of the body including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels;

Whereas scleroderma sufferers often experience damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and gastrointestinal system;

Whereas many sufferers develop pulmonary hypertension as a result of the constriction of the blood vessels;

Whereas researchers have yet to have identified a cause of scleroderma;

Whereas researchers have found links between scleroderma and rheumatic disease;

Whereas an estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma, 80 percent of whom are women;

Whereas the estimated total economic impact of scleroderma treatment is in excess of \$1,500,000,000 annually;

Whereas the morbidity cost associated with scleroderma is an estimated \$819,000,000 annually;

Whereas the direct cost of treatment for scleroderma is estimated to be \$462,000,000 annually;

Whereas there is a significant need for further research focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase understanding of the causes of the disease and treatment;

Whereas designating a month as National Scleroderma Awareness Month may help educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for research, funding, and effective treatments;

Whereas the designation of such a month would recognize the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma advocacy organization to increase awareness of scleroderma and of the need for increased Federal funding for research on scleroderma; and

Whereas June 2008 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Scleroderma Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports
- 2 the designation of a month as National Scleroderma
- 3 Awareness Month.

