

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 399

Supporting the goals and ideals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/  
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day.

Whereas the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), formerly known as the Institute of Medicine, has found Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) to be “a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected patients”;

Whereas between 836,000 and 2,500,000 individuals of all ages, races, and sexes in the United States are believed to be afflicted with ME/CFS, with millions more afflicted by ME/CFS worldwide, and the vast majority of individuals with ME/CFS are undiagnosed or misdiagnosed;

Whereas ME/CFS is approximately 4 times more prevalent in women than in men;

Whereas ME/CFS is a chronic disease with no known cure and leaves  $\frac{1}{4}$  of individuals with ME/CFS housebound or bedbound for extended periods of time;

Whereas 50 to 75 percent of individuals with ME/CFS cannot work or attend school;

Whereas medical expenses and lost productivity related to ME/CFS cost the economy of the United States an estimated \$17,000,000,000 to \$24,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the cause of ME/CFS is unknown, there is no diagnostic test for ME/CFS, and there is no treatment for ME/CFS that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

Whereas NAM has noted a “paucity of research” on ME/CFS and that “more research is essential”;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has called ME/CFS “America’s Hidden Health Crisis”;

Whereas individuals with ME/CFS struggle to find doctors to care for them, and ME/CFS is included in the curricula of fewer than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of medical schools;

Whereas in recognition of the dearth of research on ME/CFS and the profound impact that the disease has on individuals with ME/CFS and their loved ones and caretakers, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is “committed to unraveling the underlying biologic cause(s) of ME/CFS as swiftly as possible, and promoting research that will inform the development of effective strategies for treatment and prevention of this devastating condition”;

Whereas, in 2017, 11 Institutes at the NIH and the Office of the Director of the NIH contributed more than \$7,000,000 in grants to assist in establishing Collaborative Research Centers and a Data Management Coordinating Center to improve the coordination of ME/CFS research and help accelerate understanding of ME/CFS; and

Whereas, in 2019, May 12 is recognized as International ME/CFS Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) supports the goals of International Myalgic  
3       Encephalomyelitis/Chronic     Fatigue     Syndrome  
4       Awareness Day;

5               (2) recognizes and affirms the commitment of  
6       the United States to—

7                       (A) supporting research and medical edu-  
8                       cation for ME/CFS; and

9                       (B) promoting awareness among health  
10                      professionals and the public about ME/CFS;  
11                      and

12               (3) recognizes the continued importance of—

13                       (A) health care professionals and medical  
14                       researchers who care for individuals with ME/  
15                       CFS; and

- 1 (B) those who work to discover the cause
- 2 of, and develop and improve diagnosis of, treat-
- 3 ments for, and a cure for, ME/CFS.

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