

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 2001 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 524

Designating March 6, 2001, and in each succeeding year, as Lymphedema D-Day in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 2001

Agreed to by the Senate, January 31, 2001

WHEREAS, lymphedema is an accumulation of lymphatic fluid that causes swelling in the arms, legs, or other areas of the body and affects both men and women; and

WHEREAS, the swelling caused by lymphedema can lead to severe infection or loss of the use of limbs, and patients suffering from lymphedema must endure physical discomfort and disfigurement and cope with the distress caused by these symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the single largest group of people who get lymphedema are cancer patients, including breast, prostate, gynecological, head, neck, lung, sarcoma and melanoma patients; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have indicated that 20 percent of breast cancer patients will get lymphedema after surgery and radiation; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, there are a reported 8.5 million Americans living after a diagnosis of cancer, of which about 2 million are breast cancer survivors; and

WHEREAS, no drug or effective surgical treatment for lymphedema currently exists; and

WHEREAS, research in all areas of lymphedema has been notably limited; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema, which has no cure and can occur anytime, has a severe financial, physical and psychological impact on patients; and

WHEREAS, each year on March 6th, the National Lymphedema Network sponsors Lymphedema D-Day to honor patients and to raise awareness of the treatment and severity of this condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate March 6, 2001, and in each succeeding year, as Lymphedema D-Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly encourage the citizens of the Commonwealth to honor and support the courageous patients living and coping with this debilitating condition; and be, it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in order that she may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

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