

## 2018 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 184

*Commending idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis researchers and clinicians in Virginia.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 2, 2018

Agreed to by the Senate, February 8, 2018

WHEREAS, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen; and

WHEREAS, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common form of interstitial lung disease; the disease progresses quickly, often causing disability or death within three to five years; and

WHEREAS, there is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and it is often misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is five times more common than cystic fibrosis and Lou Gehrig's disease, but the disease remains virtually unknown and receives a fraction of the research funding; and

WHEREAS, more than 132,000 United States citizens have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and more than 50,000 new cases are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40,000 people die each year due to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which is as many as those who die each year of breast cancer in the United States; and

WHEREAS, between 3,000 and 4,000 Virginians suffer from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has become a leader in research and treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with hundreds of lung transplants performed in Virginia hospitals over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to increase research, awareness, and early detection of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and ensure that treatment options for the disease are readily available for those who need them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis researchers and clinicians in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Board of Health as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the vital contributions of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis researchers and clinicians to the health and wellness of thousands of Virginians.

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