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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 565**

Offered January 19, 2023

*Designating March 6, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in Virginia.*

Patrons—Guzman, Adams, D.M., Clark, Hope, Rasoul, Shin and Simonds

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, lymphedema occurs when there is a blockage in the lymphatic system, a network of vessels that transport lymph fluid throughout the body and that is an integral part of the immune system; and

WHEREAS, the most common causes of lymphedema include a traumatic event such as sports injuries or deep cuts and bruises; cancer, radiation treatment for cancer, or cancer surgery; and infection from parasites; risk factors include older age, excess weight, rheumatoid or psoriatic arthritis, and inherited conditions; and

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms associated with lymphedema, which can range from mild to severe, include swelling of the arm or leg, a feeling of heaviness or tightness, restricted range of motion, recurring infections, or a hardening and thickening of the skin; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema may present complications, such as cellulitis, sepsis, leakage through or changes to the skin, and cancer, and should be monitored closely in consultation with a physician; and

WHEREAS, although there is no cure for lymphedema, the recognized standard of care is Complete Decongestive Therapy, which includes lymph drainage exercises, manual lymph drainage, compression therapy to include compression bandages or garments, and skin care; sequential pneumatic pumping is also recommended; in extreme cases, surgery may be required; and

WHEREAS, in addition to primary and secondary lymphedema, there are several other diseases that can impact the lymphatic system, including lipedema, lymphatic filariasis, and lymphatic malformations; and

WHEREAS, the Lymphedema Treatment Act is a federal law that passed on December 23, 2022, that improves insurance coverage for the medically necessary and prescribed compression supplies that are essential for the treatment of lymphedema; and

WHEREAS, World Lymphedema Day was established in 2016 by the United States Senate in response to a bill written by the Lymphatic Education & Research Network, providing an occasion to promote awareness and understanding of lymphedema and other lymphatic diseases; and

WHEREAS, establishing Lymphedema Awareness Day in the Commonwealth will shine light on this incurable but treatable disease, contributing to the health and well-being of countless Virginians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate March 6, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as Lymphedema Awareness Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Lymphatic Education & Research Network so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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