

1998 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 112

Designating the week of October 11-18, 1998, as Dystonia Awareness Week in Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 1998

Agreed to by the Senate, March 10, 1998

WHEREAS, dystonia is a frequently disabling neurological disorder characterized by powerful involuntary muscle spasms; and

WHEREAS, often misdiagnosed and improperly treated, dystonia affects approximately 250,000 people in North America, causing substantial pain and suffering to patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, relatively unknown, even though it afflicts more people than better-known maladies, dystonia is at present incurable, although it can be treated; and

WHEREAS, the physical manifestations of dystonia often are the cause of sufferers being shunned, adding isolation and psychological distress to the often-disabling physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, to create greater public awareness of dystonia and to urge greater research efforts towards treatment and cure, those who suffer from dystonia and their families have formed the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation hopes to create wider recognition and understanding of dystonia in the medical profession and among the public and greater support of efforts to find the causes of and a cure for dystonia; and

WHEREAS, toward these ends, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation sponsors Dystonia Awareness Week to garner public support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the week of October 11-18, 1998, as Dystonia Awareness Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to become more aware of dystonia and the special needs of those who suffer from it and to support efforts to find the cause of and a cure for this dread disease.

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