

1                   **UTAH MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK**

2                                   **JOINT RESOLUTION**

3   2011 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Kenneth W. Sumsion**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This joint resolution of the Legislature designates September 5 through September 11,  
11   2011, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

12   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This resolution:

14           ▶ designates September 5 through September 11, 2011, as Mitochondrial Disease  
15   Awareness Week in the state of Utah and urges the citizens of Utah to observe the  
16   week with appropriate activities and programs.

17   **Special Clauses:**

18           None

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20   *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

21           WHEREAS, mitochondria are part of every cell in the body and contain genetic  
22   material;

23           WHEREAS, mitochondria are responsible for processing oxygen and converting  
24   substances from foods eaten into energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth;

25           WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases result from failures of the mitochondria;

26           WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases cause a wide range of health issues including  
27   seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure, progressive muscle  
28   weakness, and often cause failure of several oxygen systems in sequence;

29           WHEREAS, symptoms of mitochondrial disease can appear at any age and can

30 significantly compromise lives of affected individuals;

31       WHEREAS, while mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at any age, they  
32 primarily affect children;

33       WHEREAS, many children with mitochondrial disease die before their teenage years;

34       WHEREAS, though no cure exists, early diagnosis and use of proper medication and  
35 nutritional supplements can help reduce symptoms, delay or prevent the progression of the  
36 disease, improve quality of life, and even prolong life;

37       WHEREAS, the goal of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation is "to promote  
38 research and education for the diagnosis, treatment, and cure of mitochondrial disorders and to  
39 provide support to affected individuals and families"; and

40       WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the citizens of Utah be better informed about  
41 mitochondrial diseases and their impact:

42       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
43 designates September 5 through September 11, 2011, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness  
44 Week in the state of Utah and urges the citizens of Utah to observe the week with appropriate  
45 activities and programs.

46       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
47 Mitochondrial Medicine Society, the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, the  
48 Mitochondrial Physiology Society, the Mitochondrial Research Society, the NIH Mitochondrial  
49 Interest Group, and to the Utah Department of Health.