

**FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS DAY JOINT RESOLUTION**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson**

House Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature designates May 12, 2011, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ designates May 12, 2011, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day in the state of Utah;
- ▶ recognizes the needs of those stricken with fibromyalgia and urges citizens of the state to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis; and
- ▶ encourages organizations with influence in the decision-making process affecting patients with fibromyalgia to protect their rights to parity in access to care, treatment, and research funding and opportunities.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, an estimated 57,000 citizens of Utah and 10 million Americans have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia, most of them women;

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain disorder that is poorly understood but is becoming an increasingly common diagnosis;

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is life altering and takes a toll emotionally, financially, and socially on patients, their families, friends, co-workers, and communities;

30 WHEREAS, as with other chronic pain conditions, many patients with fibromyalgia  
31 will consult multiple health care providers and often live with the pain for years before it is  
32 properly diagnosed and managed;

33 WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is real and can be devastating to patients and families;

34 WHEREAS, presently there is no cure for fibromyalgia, but there are treatments that  
35 can help;

36 WHEREAS, people have found ways to enjoy a good quality of life while living with  
37 fibromyalgia;

38 WHEREAS, when the chronically ill are physically unable to work, they often must  
39 depend on government assistance to survive;

40 WHEREAS, the chronically ill are prevented from contributing to society at the level  
41 they once did and place a larger burden on the health care and insurance industries and  
42 businesses that must cover the costly expenses associated with their treatment, medications,  
43 and sometimes hospitalizations;

44 WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of living  
45 with fibromyalgia will allow communities at large to better support patients and their families,  
46 friends, co-workers, and employers who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain  
47 disorder;

48 WHEREAS, there are common barriers that impede access to pain care for those with  
49 fibromyalgia;

50 WHEREAS, these barriers promote undue suffering and untreated, undertreated, or  
51 inappropriately treated pain; and

52 WHEREAS, May 12 is recognized internationally as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
54 designates May 12, 2011, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day in the state of Utah.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the needs of those  
56 stricken with fibromyalgia and urges citizens of the state to support the search for a cure and  
57 assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis.

58           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages those with influence in  
59 the decision-making process affecting patients with fibromyalgia, including the insurance  
60 industry, health care providers, the Utah Drug Use Review Board, and the Utah Pharmacy and  
61 Therapeutics Committee, to protect these patients' rights to parity in access to care, treatment,  
62 and research funding and opportunities.

63           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National  
64 Fibromyalgia Association, the Association for Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain, the Utah  
65 Fibromyalgia Association, the Utah Department of Health, the University of Utah School of  
66 Medicine, the Utah Association of Independent Insurance Agents, the Organization for  
67 Fibromyalgia and Fatigue, Education and Research, the Utah Drug Use Review Board, the  
68 Utah Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, the Utah Medical Association, and the members  
69 of Utah's congressional delegation.