

Senator Peter C. Knudson proposes the following substitute bill:

FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS DAY JOINT RESOLUTION

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

House Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove

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, treatments, and research funding and opportunities.

Special Clauses:

None

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;



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

28 WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is life altering and takes a toll emotionally, financially, and
29 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.