

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 202

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 21, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER

District 38 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor and memorializes Congress to encourage establishment of research center in New Jersey dedicated to chronic neuroendocrine immune disorders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2009)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Governor and
2 memorializing Congress to encourage the establishment of a
3 research center in New Jersey dedicated to chronic
4 neuroendocrine immune disorders.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Neuroendocrine immune disorders (NEIDs) currently
7 include Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalopathy,
8 Fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, Lyme disease, Multiple Chemical
9 Sensitivity Syndrome, and other environmental illnesses; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalopathy,
11 Fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, Lyme disease, and Multiple
12 Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome have been characterized as being as
13 disabling as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease, End-stage
14 Renal failure, and Rheumatoid Arthritis; and as life-impairing as
15 Multiple Sclerosis, AIDS, and cancer chemotherapy treatments; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The mechanisms of transmission of NEIDs include
17 parasite-borne infections; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The similarity of symptoms of NEIDs imply a common
19 pathophysiology of these illnesses; therefore, discoveries and
20 advances made in the etiology and treatment of any one of these
21 illnesses will be applicable and beneficial to the other NEIDs
22 because of their common pathophysiology; and

23 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 20 million American adults and children
24 suffer with NEIDs; and

25 **WHEREAS**, The time from illness onset to diagnosis of NEIDs is
26 approximately three to seven years, except for Lyme disease which
27 may take decades to diagnose; and

28 **WHEREAS**, There is mounting evidence of similarities of presentation
29 and origins of NEIDs with Autism, Alzheimer's disease, Multiple
30 Sclerosis, Lupus, Parkinson's and other autoimmune diseases; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Having a research center in this State is essential to:
32 promoting research into the etiology of, and therapeutic
33 interventions for, NEIDs; establishing treatment protocols and
34 providing patient care for all individuals in the State of New Jersey
35 afflicted with NEIDs; serving as a repository for NEIDs research
36 data, patient data and research publications; serving as a resource
37 for NEIDs researchers by sponsoring scientific meetings and
38 encouraging discourse among researchers; serving as a tertiary
39 resource for both physicians and patients in their efforts to manage
40 NEIDs; and advancing both NEIDs research and patient care by
41 disseminating the most recent advances in NEIDs research,
42 diagnostics and treatment protocols; now, therefore,

43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
45 Jersey:

1 According to the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War
2 Veterans' Illnesses, Gulf War illness (GWI) is estimated to affect
3 between 175,000 to 200,000 U.S. veterans, some of whom have
4 been suffering for over 17 years. GWI is characterized by multiple,
5 diverse symptoms that include a combination of memory and
6 concentration problems, chronic headache, unexplained fatigue,
7 widespread pain, chronic digestive problems, respiratory symptoms,
8 and skin rashes.

9 The CDC has announced that Lyme disease is the fastest-
10 spreading infectious disease in the United States, and that New
11 Jersey ranks third in the nation for reported cases of Lyme disease.
12 Yet, Lyme disease is seriously underreported in the United States.
13 Current literature suggests that co-infections associated with Lyme
14 disease play a major role in precipitating chronic illness with
15 symptoms that include flu-like symptoms, extreme fatigue, skin
16 rashes, unexplained weight gain or loss, other endocrine disorders,
17 urinary problems, sexual and reproductive dysfunction,
18 gastrointestinal dysfunction, heart problems, joint pain or swelling,
19 muscle twitching and muscle pain, peripheral neuropathy, vision
20 and/or hearing problems, disorientation, psychiatric disorders,
21 cognitive dysfunction, disturbed sleep, and poor balance.

22 Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome and other
23 environmental illnesses are estimated to affect 10% of the American
24 population. These illnesses have a variable, and overlapping
25 presentation with other NEIDs, and have symptoms that include any
26 combination of extreme fatigue/lethargy, muscle/joint pain, sleep
27 disturbances, headaches/migraine headaches, sensitivity to light and
28 noise, dizziness/vertigo, poor memory/poor concentration,
29 nausea/digestive problems, sore throat, constant coughing,
30 wheezing, skin rashes or burning/stinging eyes.