

By: Representatives Criswell, Hopkins,
Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND OBSERVING OCTOBER
2 2018, AS "DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH" AND ENCOURAGING THE
3 CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI TO COMMEMORATE ITS OBSERVANCE DURING THE
4 MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018.

5 WHEREAS, dysautonomia (pronouced "dis-oughta-know'-me-uh") is
6 an umbrella term used to describe a group of medical conditions
7 that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system,
8 which is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as
9 respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, temperature
10 control and more; and

11 WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia are considered rare
12 diseases, such as Multiple System Atrophy and Pure Autonomic
13 Failure, while other forms of dysautonomia are common, such as
14 Diabetic Autonomic Neuropathy, Neurocardiogenic Syncope and
15 Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS); and

16 WHEREAS, Mayo Clinic researchers estimate that POTS impacts 1
17 out of 100 teens, and a total of 1 to 3 million Americans
18 including adult onset patients, as well as millions more around
19 the globe, making it more common than well-known conditions like



20 multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, but the majority of
21 people living with POTS are young women between the ages of 12 and
22 40; and

23 WHEREAS, one of the young girls affected by this illness is
24 Mississippi's own Haylie Knowles, who first started experiencing
25 symptoms in 2009 but was forced to go from doctor to doctor, from
26 Jackson, Mississippi, all the way up to Memphis, Tennessee, and
27 then to Birmingham, Alabama, before a specialist was able to
28 diagnose her, which is why raising awareness, observing October
29 2018 as "Dysautonomia Awareness Month," and bringing this disease
30 into the public eye is so important; and

31 WHEREAS, some forms of dysautonomia can be very disabling,
32 for example, Haylie has had several TIAs and mini strokes, three
33 heart procedures, a pacemaker, two ablations, an ASD closure with
34 a Helix device, brain fog, fatigue, unconsciousness, hypoperfusion
35 seizures, and her body does not regulate blood pressure or heart
36 rate like it should, and she has to get IV fluids about every 10
37 days because her body does not recognize when or if she has had
38 enough fluids, even when she has, so this disability can obviously
39 result in social isolation, stress on the families of those
40 impacted, and financial hardship; and

41 WHEREAS, dysautonomia causes so many symptoms because the
42 automatic nervous system controls so many different bodily
43 functions, and some forms of dysautonomia can result in death,



44 causing tremendous pain and suffering for those impacted and their
45 loved ones; and

46 WHEREAS, increased awareness about dysautonomia will help
47 patients get diagnosed and treated earlier, save lives, and foster
48 support for individuals and families coping with dysautonomia in
49 Mississippi, throughout the United States and around the world;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
52 organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with
53 dysautonomia, encourages communities to celebrate Dysautonomia
54 Awareness Month each October around the world; and

55 WHEREAS, the people of Mississippi acknowledge the necessity
56 of raising awareness for dysautonomia and recognizing the
57 contributions of the professional medical community, patients and
58 family members who are working to educate our citizenry about
59 dysautonomia so that patients will get diagnosed and treated
60 earlier and lives will be saved, so Mississippians firmly believe
61 that it is fitting and proper to designate and observe the month
62 of October 2018 as "Dysautonomia Awareness Month":

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
65 THEREIN, That we do hereby acknowledge and observe October 2018,
66 as "Dysautonomia Awareness Month" and encourage the citizens of
67 Mississippi to commemorate its observance during the month of
68 October 2018.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
70 furnished to the Dysautonomia International, the Governor of
71 Mississippi, the Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi, the Secretary
72 of State of Mississippi and to the members of the Capitol Press
73 Corps.

