

## House Resolution 641

By: Representatives Walker of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, and Graves of the 137<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Causes and Treatment of Lymphedema; and for  
2 other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization cites lymphedema as the second leading cause  
4 of disability in the world; and
- 5 WHEREAS, lymphedema is the swelling in the body resulting from an accumulation of fluid  
6 in the tissue caused through a genetic condition or by a disruption in the lymphatic system's  
7 ability to clean and filter lymph fluid in the body; and
- 8 WHEREAS, lymphedema can occur at any time in a person's life after an initial injury to the  
9 lymphatic system; and
- 10 WHEREAS, if lymphedema is not treated properly, it progresses and can cause a high risk  
11 of infection, can result in expensive hospitalizations and antibiotic treatments, and can cause  
12 disabling or even fatal conditions; and
- 13 WHEREAS, lymphedema requires lifelong management, and proper treatment can increase  
14 the patient's quality of life; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the treatment of lymphedema is simpler to manage and far less expensive than  
16 the complications that can occur from lack of treatment; and
- 17 WHEREAS, presently health care coverage for lymphedema falls under rehabilitation  
18 benefits; and
- 19 WHEREAS, lymphedema is a chronic condition and should have unrestricted coverage; and

1 WHEREAS, it would be prudent and beneficial to assess the extent of health care coverage  
2 for the treatment of lymphedema to determine whether or not legislative action should be  
3 recommended to mandate certain coverage of lymphedema.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
5 there is created the House Study Committee on the Causes and Treatment of Lymphedema  
6 to be composed of seven members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
7 appoint seven members of the House of Representatives to be members of the committee.  
8 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the committee to  
9 serve as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such  
11 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
12 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
13 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for  
14 legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more  
15 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the  
16 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of  
17 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
18 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
19 made on or before December 31, 2005. The committee shall stand abolished on December  
20 31, 2005.