

House Resolution 1188

By: Representatives Mills of the 25th, Parrish of the 156th, Golick of the 34th, Maxwell of the 17th, Lunsford of the 110th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the third full week of September in each year as "Mitochondrial Disease
2 Awareness Week"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a person's body, creating
4 more than 90 percent of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, mitochondria may not function correctly due to genetic defects, damage caused
7 by drugs, or damage caused by destructive molecules called free radicals; and

8 WHEREAS, when mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death follow, and if the process is
9 repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail; and

10 WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms like seizures, low blood
11 counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure, and progressive muscle weakness, but
12 more often they cause failure of several organ systems in sequence; and

13 WHEREAS, mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at any age; and

14 WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than one in 4,000 children born in the United States
15 each year will develop a mitochondrial disease by the age of ten; and

16 WHEREAS, since mitochondrial disorders mimic other diseases, it is believed that they are
17 under diagnosed; and

18 WHEREAS, currently, no cures or effective therapies exist, but early diagnosis can help
19 patients and their families use proper medication and nutritional supplements to improve the
20 quality of life and even prolong life; and

1 WHEREAS, organizations such as the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation provide
2 much-needed support for families coping with mitochondrial disease, encourage innovative
3 research of mitochondrial disease on several levels, and sponsor more than 30 chapters and
4 support groups throughout the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that all citizens of the State of Georgia be better informed about
6 mitochondrial diseases and their impact.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body designate the third full week of September in each year as
9 "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week" and encourage the citizens of Georgia to observe
10 the week with appropriate activities and programs.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the United Mitochondrial
13 Disease Foundation.