

House Resolution 1716

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48th, Rice of the 139th, Ballard of the 147th, and Seabaugh of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, residents of Georgia are among those affected by myositis and other rare
3 diseases—nearly one in ten Americans have a rare disease; and
- 4 WHEREAS, idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, collectively referred to as myositis, are
5 rare, chronic autoimmune muscle-wasting diseases that often feature debilitating muscle
6 inflammation, pain, fatigue, and difficulty swallowing and can result in myositis-associated
7 interstitial lung disease; and
- 8 WHEREAS, more research is needed to identify the causes of and treatments for myositis,
9 which includes anti-MDA5 autoantibody-positive myositis, antisynthetase syndrome,
10 dermatomyositis, juvenile dermatomyositis, immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy,
11 inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis; and
- 12 WHEREAS, myositis is difficult to diagnose, often leading to delayed treatment, and
13 individuals with the disease frequently struggle to find healthcare providers with expertise
14 in their condition; and

15 WHEREAS, all who suffer from myositis experience a reduced quality of life, and no cure
16 has been found; life expectancy is often shortened, particularly for those with inclusion body
17 myositis, and women and people of color with all forms of myositis experience pronounced
18 health disparities; and

19 WHEREAS, The Myositis Association is the leading international patient advocacy
20 organization serving the myositis community, focusing on patient services, education,
21 research, and public awareness in the pursuit of a world without myositis.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body recognize May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
26 public and the press.