

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of March as “National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month”.

Whereas multiple myeloma (or myeloma) is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow and is called “multiple” because it can occur at various sites in the body;

Whereas multiple myeloma causes a variety of adverse health effects, including a weakened immune system, anemia, kidney damage, and bone deterioration;

Whereas multiple myeloma is the second most common blood cancer worldwide;

Whereas multiple myeloma currently affects more than 100,000 people in the United States, with about 30,330 new cases diagnosed and 12,650 deaths from the disease in 2016 according to the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program;

Whereas once predominantly found among those 65 and over, where it continues to be most frequently diagnosed, multiple myeloma is increasingly being identified in younger individuals including those in their 30s, 40s and 50s;

Whereas multiple myeloma is almost twice as likely to occur among African-Americans and is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among African-Americans, with scientific understanding of the disparity remaining unknown;

Whereas the cause of multiple myeloma is not known, with robust research being performed in the United States and internationally into potential genetic, environmental, and other risk factors;

Whereas additional new drugs and therapies are in the research phase, with patient enrollment in clinical trials playing an important role in determining safe and effective treatments;

Whereas understanding and treatment of multiple myeloma has been greatly furthered by the role of advocacy initiatives promoting awareness, education, research, peer review, and collaboration and such efforts are to be highly commended;

Whereas greater awareness of multiple myeloma on the part of clinicians and the general public can lead to earlier detection and treatment, improving health outcomes and bringing comfort to patients and their families; and

Whereas March would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of “National Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month” to increase public knowledge of this disease and advance the vision of finding a cure for multiple myeloma.