RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of May as “National Lyme Disease Awareness Month”.

Whereas there are an estimated 300,000 new cases of Lyme disease annually, putting undue burden and suffering on countless individuals and families;

Whereas Lyme disease is a rapidly growing epidemic that is found in half of all United States counties and about 80 countries;

Whereas Lyme disease has no known cure and is difficult to diagnose;
Whereas Lyme disease poses a significant threat to our communities, especially when coupled with related tick-borne illnesses;

Whereas symptoms are often mistaken for common illnesses but can affect the nervous system, the heart, and joints, leading to arthritic symptoms, paralysis, encephalitis, seizures, and death if left untreated;

Whereas a comprehensive approach utilizing increased education and more research on Lyme disease and its vectors can lead to significant advancements;

Whereas individuals and families should seek out and be aware of best practices for the prevention of tick bites and Lyme disease;

Whereas individuals living in or visiting wooded and other vulnerable areas should check themselves and their loved ones for ticks each day;

Whereas spring marks the beginning of increased tick-bite activity; and

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Lyme Disease Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports

the designation of “National Lyme Disease Awareness Month” to increase public knowledge of the disease, raise awareness about the prevention of tick bites, and advance the vision of finding a cure through critical research.