

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 1600

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Neuropathy is one of the most common chronic
2 diseases in the United States today, affecting approximately 20
3 million Americans, or one out of every 15 people, and an estimated
4 1.7 million Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, A disorder of the motor, sensory, and autonomic
6 nerves that connect the spinal cord to muscles, skin, and internal
7 organs, the condition disrupts the ability of these nerves to
8 communicate effectively, causing numbness, tingling, pain,
9 weakness, and loss of coordination; and

10 WHEREAS, There are over 100 known causes of neuropathy,
11 including diabetes, autoimmune disease, heredity, nutritional
12 imbalance, infections, and exposure to toxins; each cause is
13 associated with a particular set of symptoms, pattern of
14 development, prognosis, and treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Diabetic neuropathy accounts for one-third of all
16 neuropathy cases and leads to more diabetes-related
17 hospitalizations than any other complication; some 64 percent of
18 diabetic neuropathy pain sufferers report that pain interferes with
19 their daily activities, and 80 percent of them report mobility
20 problems that make it difficult to exercise, a critical component
21 of diabetes management; and

22 WHEREAS, Persons suffering from neuropathy often feel alone
23 and isolated due to a lack of public understanding of their illness;
24 in addition to helping to relieve that burden, an increase in

1 community awareness of the nature of neuropathy can improve the
2 likelihood that those afflicted with the condition will get
3 appropriate treatment, including options to deal with the pain
4 associated with neuropathy, before suffering devastating
5 complications; public awareness efforts are necessary to inform
6 people of the steps to take to potentially delay the onset or slow
7 the progression of neuropathy; and

8 WHEREAS, The Neuropathy Association, the leading national
9 nonprofit organization serving the neuropathy community, provides
10 support and education, advocates for patient interests, and
11 promotes research into the causes of, and cures for, this
12 debilitating disease; the Texas chapter of the association, Hands
13 Feet & Heart, is also striving to further the organization's vital
14 work within the Lone Star State; and

15 WHEREAS, Information is crucial to meeting the challenge of
16 neuropathy, and all Texans are encouraged to learn more about the
17 disorder's causes, symptoms, and management; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize the third full week of May 2011 as
20 Neuropathy Awareness Week and call on public officials and private
21 citizens to observe this week with appropriate activities and
22 programs.