

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS

A RESOLUTION

To commend patients and the medical community in their fight against Adrenoleukodystrophy.

WHEREAS, Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) is a genetic condition that damages the myelin sheath covering nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; myelin acts as insulation around the nerve fibers, and when this insulating layer is damaged, nerve signals from the brain cannot communicate across the body properly, causing impaired bodily functions or paralysis; and

WHEREAS, ALD prevents the body from breaking down very long chain fatty acids, causing these fatty acid chains to build up in the brain, nervous system, and adrenal gland; the accumulation is thought to cause inflammation in the body that damages the myelin sheath; and

WHEREAS, ALD is a genetic condition that may be inherited from one or both parents; the condition affects males more severely as it can present itself during childhood or adulthood; women who are carriers of ALD develop a milder form of the condition during adulthood; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of ALD often begin between the ages of four and ten, but they can present much later in life; these symptoms include loss of vision, learning disabilities, dysphagia, seizures, deafness, lack of coordination and balance, fatigue, intermittent vomiting, weight loss, lack of appetite, nausea, darkening of the skin, progressive dementia, muscle weakness, low blood glucose, and morning headaches; and

WHEREAS, Adrenomyeloneuropathy is an adult-onset form of ALD that progresses slowly over decades; symptoms of the condition may include a stiff gait when walking and

bladder and bowel dysfunction; many male patients with this form of ALD often end up wheelchair-bound; moreover, the adrenal glands in people with ALD often fail to produce enough cortisol, causing Addison's disease; and

WHEREAS, the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Adrenal Center is a unique facility with world-renowned specialists in every facet of adrenal care; ALD is currently treated with medications and physical therapy, and if a patient is diagnosed as a child or at an early stage of the condition, a stem cell transplant may be a promising treatment to stop the condition's progression.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend patients and the medical community in their fight against Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that they continue to receive the support needed to emerge victorious in their endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES