

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHEAT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize April 2021 as West Nile Virus Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, during the late spring, warmer temperatures combined with rainy weather create ideal conditions for mosquitos to breed, increasing the potential for the spread of West Nile virus; and

WHEREAS, West Nile virus first appeared in the United States in 1999, and West Nile cases have since been reported in every state other than Alaska and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, mosquitos, the principal transmitters of the virus, are most active during the warmer months of the year, but they can be present year-round in some parts of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, although a majority of people show no symptoms of West Nile virus, approximately twenty percent develop mild illness, and fewer than one percent develop a severe neurological infection that may lead to inflammation of the brain or membranes surrounding the brain or spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, neurological infections are associated with symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, confusion or disorientation, seizures, coma, partial paralysis, and vision loss, and some neurological complications can linger on for months or even be permanent; and

WHEREAS, in rare cases, West Nile disease can be life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no specific treatment or vaccine for West Nile virus; and

WHEREAS, the best means of preventing West Nile disease is to reduce exposure to mosquitos by removing standing water, using mosquito repellent, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, and limiting outside activity during dawn, dusk, and early evening, when the insects are most active; and

WHEREAS, with the approach of warmer weather, Louisianians are advised to take precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones from West Nile virus, and recognizing April as West Nile Virus Awareness Month can help educate the public about this preventable disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 2021 as West Nile Virus Awareness Month in Louisiana, and hereby encourages Louisianians to learn more about ways to stop the spread of West Nile virus.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE