

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 61

Expressing support for a National Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD)  
Awareness Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2001

Mr. BARRETT (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. REYES, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. UPTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. COYNE, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. McDERMOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for a National Reflex Sympathetic  
Dystrophy (RSD) Awareness Month.

Whereas reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD) is an extremely painful progressive disease of the nervous system resulting from a simple trauma, infection, or surgery that can lead to chronic inflammation, spasms, burning pain, stiffness, and discoloration of the skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones;

Whereas RSD can strike at any time, and currently afflicts an estimated 7 million children and adults, the majority of whom are women;

Whereas RSD is a complex and little-known disease, inhibiting the early diagnosis and treatment needed for recovery and contributing to dismissals of patients' pain and suffering;

Whereas there is no known cure for RSD and treatment involves multiple medications and therapies with costs that can be prohibitive;

Whereas Betsy Herman established the RSDHope Teen Corner in 1998 and she and countless other advocates have worked tirelessly to provide information and support to RSD sufferers and their families and friends and to bring national attention to this crippling disease; and

Whereas each May is Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month, the goal of which is to educate the public about the nature and effects of this terrible disease: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3           (1) all Americans should take an active role in  
4       combatting reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD) by  
5       recognizing its symptoms (which often follow an in-  
6       jury or surgery), such as constant burning pain, skin  
7       irritation, inflammation, muscle spasms, fatigue, and  
8       insomnia;

9           (2) national and community organizations  
10       should be recognized and applauded for their work  
11       in promoting awareness about RSD and for pro-  
12       viding information and support to its sufferers;

1           (3) health care providers should continue to in-  
2       crease their efforts to diagnose the disease in its ear-  
3       liest possible stages to increase the likelihood of re-  
4       mission; and

5           (4) the Federal Government has a responsibility  
6       to—

7           (A) endeavor to raise awareness about the  
8       importance of the early detection and proper  
9       treatment of RSD;

10          (B) work to increase research funding so  
11       that the causes of, and improved treatment and  
12       cure for, RSD may be discovered; and

13          (C) continue to consider ways to improve  
14       access to, and the quality of, health care serv-  
15       ices for detecting and treating RSD.

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