Public Law 101-29
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

May 17, 1989
[S.J. Res. 37]

Designating the week beginning May 14, 1989, and the week beginning May 13, 1990, as "National Osteoporosis Prevention Week".

Whereas osteoporosis, a degenerative bone condition, afflicts 25,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas osteoporosis afflicts 90 percent of women over age 75;

Whereas 50 percent of all women in the United States over age 45 will develop some form of osteoporosis;

Whereas hip fractures are the most disabling outcome of osteoporosis, and 32 percent of women and 17 percent of men who live to age 90 will likely suffer a hip fracture due primarily to osteoporosis;

Whereas the mortality rates for people who suffer a hip fracture increase by 20 percent, with such fractures resulting in the death of over 50,000 older women and many older men each year;

Whereas 15 to 25 percent of people who suffer a hip fracture stay in a long-term care facility for at least one year after the fracture occurs, and 25 to 35 percent of people who return home from a long-term care facility after recovering from a hip fracture require assistance with daily living after returning home;

Whereas the total cost to society of dealing with osteoporosis was over $10,000,000,000 in 1988 and such cost is expected to rise as the population ages;

Whereas osteoporosis is associated with the loss of bone mass due to a lack of estrogen as a result of menopause, alcohol or cigarette use, and low calcium intake;

Whereas exercise and proper nutrition before an individual is age 35 will build bone mass to help prevent osteoporosis; and

Whereas people who suffer from osteoporosis should be aware of the increased risk of bone fractures, and should take precautions to reduce the chance of accidents that may result in bone fractures due primarily to osteoporosis: Now, therefore, be it

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the week beginning May 14, 1989, and the week beginning May 13, 1990, are designated as "National Osteoporosis Prevention Week", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate programs and activities.

Approved May 17, 1989.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 37:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 135 (1989):
Feb. 28, considered and passed Senate.
May 9, considered and passed House, amended.
May 10, Senate concurred in House amendments.