

STATE OF NEW YORK
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Eliot Spitzer to proclaim May 15, 2007, as Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Day in the State of New York.

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing days of awareness of important medical conditions, in the hopes of increasing education, treatment and cure; and

WHEREAS, Chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and by other names, is a complex and debilitating chronic illness that affects the brain and multiple body systems; and

WHEREAS, Although its name trivializes the illness as little more than mere tiredness, CFIDS brings with it a constellation of debilitating symptoms; CFIDS is characterized by incapacitating fatigue (experienced as profound exhaustion and extremely poor stamina) and problems with concentration and short-term memory; and

WHEREAS, It is also accompanied by flu-like symptoms such as pain in the joints and muscles, unrefreshing sleep, tender lymph nodes, sore throat and headache; a distinctive characteristic of the illness is post-exertional malaise, a worsening of symptoms following physical or mental exertion occurring within 12-48 hours of the exertion and requiring an extended recovery period; and

WHEREAS, CFIDS affects more than one million Americans; in technical terms, of every 100,000 Americans, 422 have CFIDS; only 16% who meet the strict definition have been diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, CFIDS is most common in women (522 cases per 100,000) and minorities, especially Latinos (726 cases per 100,000); moreover, it is not limited to any specific race, age or socioeconomic group; and

WHEREAS, The symptoms of CFIDS are highly variable and fluctuate in severity, complicating treatment and the ill person's ability to cope with the illness; most symptoms are invisible which makes it difficult for others to understand the vast array of debilitating symptoms with which people with the illness must contend; and

WHEREAS, Treating CFIDS presents a significant challenge for people with CFIDS and their physicians; as yet, there is no known cause, cure or universal treatment for CFIDS; until a treatment is developed which will improve all the symptoms of CFIDS, or correct the underlying cause, therapy is based upon the individual's presenting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Treatment options include medical, supportive and alternative treatments, as well as lifestyle alterations; and

WHEREAS, Treatment may incorporate any, or all, of the above categories as people with CFIDS seek to improve their condition; the person with CFIDS can experience much frustration when attempting to secure treatment; keeping an open mind and speaking candidly with a health care provider is important to any treatment plan; and

WHEREAS, On May 15, 2007 members of the CFIDS Association of America from all across the country will gather in Washington, D.C. to help raise awareness of this debilitating disease and their worthy efforts to conquer CFIDS; and

WHEREAS, Residents of the State of New York will remain hopeful; CFIDS continues to be researched by numerous professionals so that the medical community may more accurately describe their origin, physical signs and symptoms, and uncover new options that will better aid loved ones in their fight against CFIDS; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of this syndrome must be raised so that the likelihood of early diagnosis and intervention will increase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Eliot Spitzer to proclaim May 15, 2007, as Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, and Kim McCleary, President/CEO, CFIDS Association of America.