JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2019 AS SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a potentially debilitating and deadly multiorgan inflammatory disease that is estimated to affect 200,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms of sarcoidosis vary widely depending on the person and organs affected and can include debilitating fatigue; shortness of breath; difficulties with balance and coordination; irregular heartbeat; visual problems, including blindness; pain affecting joints and muscles; weakness or numbness of limbs; skin rash and discoloration; mood disorders such as depression and anxiety; organ failure; and sleep difficulties; and

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis can affect anyone but is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40, with a higher incidence among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a diagnosis of exclusion as there is no objective test, biomarker, known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, researchers, caregivers and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life and prognosis of persons living with sarcoidosis and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2019 as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Comes from the House, READ and ADOPTED.