

State of Misconsin 2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4830/1 CWW:klm

## **2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 77**

November 22, 2019 – Introduced by Senators RISSER and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives Allen, Tauchen, Magnafici, Anderson, Sinicki, Steffen, Spreitzer, Subeck, Tusler and C. Taylor. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: declaring December 10, 2019, as Howard Temin Day in Wisconsin.
2	Whereas, Howard Martin Temin was born on December 10, 1934, in
3	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Annette Lehman and Henry Temin; and
4	Whereas, Howard published his first scientific paper at the age of 18 before
5	graduating from Swarthmore College in 1955, and he began his research as a
6	graduate student in the laboratory of Professor Renato Dulbecco at the California
7	Institute of Technology, where he studied animal virology and authored his doctoral
8	thesis on the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV); and
9	Whereas, after earning his Ph.D. in 1959, Howard developed the theory that
10	RSV and other retroviruses could enter a cell and make DNA copies of themselves
11	before integrating into the host genome; and
12	Whereas, in 1960, Howard accepted an assistant professorship in the McArdle
13	Laboratory for Cancer Research at UW-Madison; and

2019 – 2020 Legislature

1	Whereas, in 1964, Howard proposed that RSV could translate its RNA into
2	DNA, redirecting the reproductive activity of a cell and causing it to reproduce the
3	translated DNA along with its own DNA, producing more cancer cells; and
4	Whereas, Howard's theory that a virus can infect and transform cells was
5	initially met with skepticism because it ran contrary to the "central dogma" of
6	molecular biology proposed by Francis Crick, which held that DNA was effectively
7	immune from manipulation; and
8	Whereas, Howard's key discovery came in 1970, when he found that certain
9	tumor viruses, now known as retroviruses, carry the enzymatic ability to reverse the
10	flow of information from RNA back to DNA in a process known as reverse
11	transcriptase; and
12	Whereas, in 1975, Howard, his former professor Renato Dulbecco, and David
13	Baltimore won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their "discoveries
14	concerning the interaction between tumor viruses and the genetic material of the
15	cell," now recognized as one of the most important discoveries in modern medicine;
16	and
17	Whereas, the discovery of reverse transcriptase led to the rapid development
18	of tests for a human retrovirus and a class of drugs to combat the HIV/AIDS
19	epidemic, saving an untold number of lives; and
20	Whereas, in the 1970s, Howard delivered a number of lectures in the Soviet
21	Union and aided "refuseniks"—researchers who were targeted by the KGB and
22	refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union—by providing them with gifts
23	that could be resold to help support their families and giving them reprints of
24	scientific journals because their access had been restricted by the Soviet
25	government; and

- 2 -

2019 - 2020 Legislature - 3 -

1	Whereas, Howard's tenacity, moral compass, and unwillingness to accept the
2	"central dogma" of molecular biology and political threats against science and free
3	thought from a totalitarian state reflected the highest credit on himself and the
4	"Wisconsin Idea" that holds that education should influence people's lives beyond the
5	boundary of the classroom; and
6	Whereas, Howard taught and conducted research at UW-Madison until his
7	death from lung cancer on February 9, 1994; and
8	Whereas, since 1998, one of the two trails on the Lakeshore Path on the
9	UW-Madison campus has been named after Howard, who was known to bike or walk
10	the path to work every day, no matter the weather, using it for quiet contemplation
11	and reflection; now, therefore, be it
12	<b>Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That</b> in commemoration
13	of the 85th anniversary of his birth, the Wisconsin Legislature hereby declares
14	December 10, 2019, as Howard Temin Day in Wisconsin; and, be it further
15	Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
16	resolution to Howard's wife, Rayla, and daughters, Miriam and Sarah.
17	(END)