

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. |
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| 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 |
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| 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 |
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| 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 | Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That 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) |
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