



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 142

March 7, 2022 - Introduced by Representatives SUBECK, S. RODRIGUEZ, ANDRACA, BALDEH, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CABRERA, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, DRAKE, EMERSON, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, B. MEYERS, MILROY, OHNSTAD, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators RINGHAND, ROYS and LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** designating May 2022 as Bone Health and Osteoporosis Awareness
2 Month in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone
4 mass and studies suggest that approximately 1 in 2 women and up to 1 in 4 men age
5 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and

6 Whereas, approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffered
7 approximately 2.1 million osteoporotic fractures a year, and osteoporosis-related
8 bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes,
9 or breast cancer; and

10 Whereas, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare
11 beneficiaries was \$57 billion in 2018 and is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in
12 2040 without reforms, as the population ages; and

13 Whereas, in Wisconsin 32,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 38,000
14 osteoporotic fractures in 2016; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsinites on Medicare that suffered not just an initial fracture
2 but also a subsequent fracture resulted in estimated costs of over \$83.2 million; and

3 Whereas, osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal
4 aging. Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention
5 of osteoporosis. Care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach
6 our peak bone mass by early adulthood; and

7 Whereas, optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be
8 maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and
9 muscle-strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive
10 alcohol intake; and

11 Whereas, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one can't feel
12 bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone
13 health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to
14 hospitalization and nursing home stays; and

15 Whereas, cost-effective post-fracture care, which improves care coordination,
16 has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet
17 is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and

18 Whereas, it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and
19 osteoporosis among the public, health professionals, and policy makers; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
22 State Legislature recognizes and appreciates the ideals, goals, and activities of Bone
23 Health and Osteoporosis Month in May and encourages observation of appropriate

1 good health programs and activities with respect to promoting good bone health
2 through the lifetime and preventing and controlling osteoporosis.

3 (END)