



## 2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 118

March 18, 2014 – Introduced by Representative KULP, cosponsored by Senator TIFFANY. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming May 2014 as Lyme disease awareness month.

2             Whereas, Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by an  
3     infected tick commonly known as the black-legged or deer tick; and

4             Whereas, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the  
5     disease was first recognized in the United States in 1975 in Lyme, Connecticut; and

6             Whereas, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in  
7     the United States with an estimated 300,000 Americans diagnosed each year and it  
8     is also the highest reported tick-borne disease in Wisconsin with 23,000 cases  
9     reported between 1980 and 2010; and

10            Whereas, signs and symptoms generally set in after 3–30 days and commonly  
11     include a fever, headache, fatigue, and a circular skin rash called erythema migrans  
12     (“EM”); and

13            Whereas, if left untreated, the infection may spread to other parts of the body  
14     producing symptoms that include: additional EM lesions, facial or Bell’s palsy, severe

1 headaches and neck stiffness, pain and swelling in large joints, fatigue, cognitive  
2 decline, shooting pains, and heart palpitations; and

3       Whereas, although Lyme disease is often difficult to diagnose the disease can  
4 be treated successfully with oral or injectable antibiotics if it is detected early; and

5       Whereas, the best ways to prevent Lyme disease are to avoid wooded and bushy  
6 areas with high grass, use repellants with 20 to 30 percent DEET, wear light-colored  
7 clothing to cover exposed skin, and check skin thoroughly after being in areas where  
8 ticks may be present; and

9       Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2012  
10 nearly 95 percent of the over 30,000 Lyme disease cases in the United States were  
11 reported from only 13 states with over 1,700 of them reported from the state of  
12 Wisconsin; and

13       Whereas, it is important to provide information and raise public awareness of  
14 Lyme disease causes, effects, and treatments; and to emphasize important education  
15 and research efforts surrounding Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17       ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature  
18 recognizes May 2014 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Wisconsin and  
19 commends this observance to all residents; and, be it further

20       ***Resolved, That*** the legislature calls upon all residents to learn about the  
21 importance of tick avoidance and personal protection, tick detection and removal, the  
22 signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses, and the need for prompt diagnosis and  
23 treatment of Lyme disease.

24

(END)