



## 2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming May 2017 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  
8     it is also the highest reported tick-borne disease in Wisconsin, with 38,394 cases  
9     reported between 1990 and 2015; 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 antibiotics, injectable antibiotics, and/or natural  
5 antimicrobials if it is detected early; and

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

10       Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2014,  
11 nearly 96 percent of the over 25,359 Lyme disease cases in the United States were  
12 reported from only 14 states, with over 2,975 of them reported from the state of  
13 Wisconsin; and

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

18       ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature  
19 recognizes May 2017 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Wisconsin and  
20 commends this observance to all residents; and, be it further

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

25

(END)