



2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming May 2019 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 more than 45,000
9 cases reported between 1980 and 2017; 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 or injectable antibiotics if it is detected
5 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 2017,
11 nearly 94 percent of the over 29,513 Lyme disease cases in the United States were
12 reported from only 14 states, with over 1,794 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 2019 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)