

1 HJR232  
2 176448-1  
3 By Representative Bracy  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 05-APR-16

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8 DESIGNATING APRIL 2016 AND THE MONTH OF APRIL EVERY  
9 YEAR THEREAFTER AS SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, once thought to be a rare disease,  
12 sarcoidosis is now known to affect people of all ages, races,  
13 and genders; and

14 WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that  
15 can affect almost any organ in the body and causes heightened  
16 immunity, a condition that results in overreaction of the  
17 immune system, resulting in damage to the body's own tissues;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the classic feature of sarcoidosis is the  
20 formation of granulomas, microscopic clumps of inflammatory  
21 cells that group together, interfering with organ function;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, in the United States, sarcoidosis most  
24 commonly targets the lungs and lymph nodes, but can also  
25 affect the skin, eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses,  
26 kidneys, heart, the muscles and bones, the brain and the  
27 nervous system; and

1           WHEREAS, though the exact cause of sarcoidosis is  
2 not known, current research indicates that in individuals who  
3 are genetically susceptible to sarcoidosis, exposure to  
4 bacteria, viruses or chemicals might trigger the disease; and

5           WHEREAS, while progress has been made in  
6 understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease,  
7 there is still much to learn about sarcoidosis, but with  
8 increased research, the goal of discovering the cause,  
9 improving treatment and finding a cure is attainable; now  
10 therefore,

11           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we designate April 2016 and  
13 the month of April every year thereafter as Sarcoidosis  
14 Awareness Month in recognition of the importance of the  
15 ongoing struggle against sarcoidosis and to strongly encourage  
16 continued support of research and education efforts and  
17 awareness of this disease.