

(Engrossed as Agreed to or Passed by House)

107th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. CON. RES. 165

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that continual research and education into the cause and cure for fibroid tumors be addressed.

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H. CON. RES. 165

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the vast majority of fibroids occur in women of reproductive age, and between 20 and 40 percent of women are diagnosed;

Whereas African American women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with fibroids than Caucasian women;

Whereas fibroids are the most frequently diagnosed tumor of the female pelvis and range in size from 1mm to more than 20cm (8 inches) in diameter;

Whereas they are not associated with cancer and almost never develop into cancer (less than one percent becoming malignant);

Whereas the symptoms of fibroids can include excessive bleeding during menstrual periods, spotting or bleeding between periods, frequent urination, and/or lower back pain;

Whereas the preferred method of treatment for fibroids is a hysterectomy, which is the complete removal of the uterus, leaving the woman unable to bear children for the rest of her life;

Whereas diets rich in fatty foods have been a contributing factor to an increased risk in fibroid tumors;

Whereas there are alternative methods to a hysterectomy available, but they are less permanent, and have menopausal symptoms;

Whereas, in cases of hormonal treatment, the fibroids will regrow should

the treatment cease; and

Whereas research conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health indicated that while estrogen and progesterone are contributing factors, fibroids can be targeted by environmental chemicals whose effects are mediated through the estrogen and/or progesterone receptors:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)

,

That--

(1) the Congress recognizes the health and educational needs

of women in the United States who may be suffering from fibroids ;

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the medical community should explore alternatives to hysterectomies in greater detail, so that women who choose to bear children in

their lives may do so, while eliminating recurring fibroids ; and

(3) the Congress--

(A) encourages women to pay greater attention to

their reproductive health by making regular visits to their OB/GYNs; and

(B) encourages women and their physicians to know all safe options available for the prevention and cure of fibroids .

Passed the House of Representatives May 20, 2002.

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Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 165) expressing the sense of the

Congress that continual research and education into the cause and cure for fibroid cancer be addressed.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Con. Res. 165

Whereas the vast majority of fibroids occur in women of reproductive age, and between 20 and 40 percent of women are diagnosed;

Whereas African American women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with fibroids than Caucasian women;

Whereas fibroids are the most frequently diagnosed tumor of the female pelvis and range in size from 1mm to more than 20cm (8 inches) in diameter;

Whereas they are not associated with cancer and almost never develop into cancer (less than one percent becoming malignant);

Whereas the symptoms of fibroids can include excessive bleeding during menstrual periods, spotting or bleeding between periods, frequent

urination, and/or lower back pain;

Whereas the preferred method of treatment for fibroids is a hysterectomy, which is the complete removal of the uterus, leaving the woman unable to bear children for the rest of her life;

Whereas diets rich in fatty foods have been a contributing factor to an increased risk in fibroid tumors;

Whereas there are alternative methods to a hysterectomy available, but they are less permanent, and have menopausal symptoms;

Whereas, in cases of hormonal treatment, the fibroids will regrow should the treatment cease; and

Whereas research conducted by the National Institute of Environmental

Health indicated that while estrogen and progesterone are contributing factors, fibroids can be targeted by environmental chemicals whose effects are mediated through the estrogen and/or progesterone receptors:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring) , That--

(1) the Congress recognizes the health and educational needs of women in the United States who may be suffering from fibroids;

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the medical community should explore alternatives to hysterectomies in greater detail, so that

women who choose to bear children in their lives may do so, while

eliminating recurring fibroids; and

(3) the Congress--

(A) encourages women to pay greater attention to their reproductive health by making regular visits to their OB/GYNs; and

(B) encourages women and their physicians to know all safe options available for the prevention and cure of fibroids.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Millender-McDonald ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis ).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 165, which expresses the sense of the Congress that research and education on fibroid tumors be increased. This resolution was unanimously approved by

the full Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 24. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which will help place a much-needed focus on fibroid tumors and their prevention.

As a firm believer in prevention, I am pleased that this resolution places such an emphasis on providing women with the information they need to make smart decisions about their health. For example, fibroid tumors are linked to diets rich in fatty foods. Women need this important information so they can modify their eating habits to reduce their risks of developing fibroid tumors.

The vast majority of fibroid tumors occur in women of reproductive age. Today, a hysterectomy is the most common treatment for women with fibroid tumors. This procedure has devastating consequences for women as

they are unable to have children, as we know, after a hysterectomy.

The resolution calls on the medical community to explore alternatives

to hysterectomies for the treatment of fibroid tumors. We must focus research efforts on the development of alternative therapies that will increase the treatment options for women. Therapeutic advances are the surest way to enable women to receive care and preserve their ability to

bear children.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Millender-McDonald ) for her good work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 165.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD.. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House is considering my bill, H. Con. Res. 165, which deals with uterine fibroid tumors. I want to express my gratitude to the House leadership and to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Tauzin) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis ) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee

on Health.

My thanks also to the ranking members, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Dingell) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Brown) and my dear friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. Waxman), for their efforts to

bring this measure to the floor for consideration.

I also want to recognize the respective majority and minority committee professional staff for their work.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, expresses a sense of Congress that continual research and education must be directed to the causes and cures for noncancerous uterine fibroid tumors. These tumors afflict women of reproductive age and affect African-American women 2 to 3 times

more frequently than other women. Although the tumors are usually benign, they are quite painful, troublesome and dangerous, depending upon their size and their location.

It has been estimated that 20 to 30 percent of women experience fibroid tumors, even though many of the cases

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are not diagnosed. Although these tumors can be quite small, they can multiply and cause great physical discomfort. For many years a surgical procedure known as a hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, has been used to eliminate the tumors. This surgery unfortunately also eliminates

a woman's ability to have children. Therefore, it is imperative that women become more educated about the nature of fibroid uterine tumors and the possible implications for women who suffer from this debilitating health problem.

The best approach for women to effectively deal with this unique health dilemma involves regular exams by their doctor. Furthermore, it is paramount that the medical community explore alternatives to eliminate recurring fibroids by other than a woman having to undergo a hysterectomy.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H. Con. Res. 165 has been brought before the House for consideration. For much too long women have

suffered terribly with uterine fibroid tumors. I applaud my colleagues for bringing this bill before the House for a vote. This legislation, when enacted, will be implemented to encourage women to seek early detection of uterine fibroid tumors and will further enable doctors to pursue research concerning better treatment to avoid unnecessary and painful surgery.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the

gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 165.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be

postponed.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE -- (House of Representatives -  
May 20, 2002)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair  
will now put the question on the following motions to suspend the rules  
on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 314, by the yeas and nays;

House Concurrent Resolution 165, by the yeas and nays; and

House Concurrent Resolution 309, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on the remaining motions to suspend the rules considered  
earlier today will be taken tomorrow.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote  
after the first such vote in this series.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of  
suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con.  
Res. 165.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by  
the

gentleman from Florida (Mr. Bilirakis ) that the House suspend the  
rules

and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 165, on which the  
yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were--yeas 363,  
nays 0, not voting 71, as follows:

[all voting names listed here]

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended  
and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read:

``Expressing the sense of the Congress that continual research and  
education into the cause and cure for fibroid tumors be addressed.''.  
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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