

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. 20**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**214th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Governor and memorializes Congress to establish research center in NJ dedicated to chronic neuroendocrine immune disorders and associated chronic illnesses.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2010)**

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Governor and memorializing  
2   Congress to encourage the establishment of a research center in  
3   New Jersey dedicated to chronic neuroendocrine immune  
4   disorders and associated chronic illnesses.  
5  
6   **WHEREAS**, Neuroendocrine immune disorders (NEIDs) currently  
7   include chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalopathy/myalgic  
8   encephalitis, fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, multiple chemical  
9   sensitivity syndrome, and associated chronic illnesses; and  
10  **WHEREAS**, A minimum of 20 million American adults and children  
11  suffer with NEIDs and associated chronic illnesses; and  
12  **WHEREAS**, The time from illness onset to diagnosis of NEIDs is  
13  approximately three to seven years; and  
14  **WHEREAS**, The mechanisms of chronic illness including NEIDs may  
15  include bacterial and viral infections; and  
16  **WHEREAS**, Chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic  
17  encephalopathy/myalgic encephalitis, fibromyalgia, Gulf War  
18  illness, and multiple chemical sensitivity syndrome have been  
19  characterized as being as disabling as chronic obstructive  
20  pulmonary disease, end-stage renal failure, and rheumatoid arthritis;  
21  and as life-impairing as multiple sclerosis, AIDS, and cancer  
22  chemotherapy treatments; and  
23  **WHEREAS**, The similarity of symptoms of NEIDs and associated  
24  chronic illnesses imply a common pathophysiology of these  
25  illnesses; therefore, discoveries and advances made in the etiology  
26  and treatment of any one of these illnesses will be applicable and  
27  beneficial to the other NEIDs and associated chronic illnesses  
28  because of their common pathophysiology; and  
29  **WHEREAS**, There is mounting evidence of similarities of presentation  
30  and origins of NEIDs with autism, Alzheimer's disease, multiple  
31  sclerosis, lupus, Parkinson's disease and other autoimmune  
32  diseases; and  
33  **WHEREAS**, Having a research center in this State is essential to:  
34  promoting research into the etiology of, and therapeutic  
35  interventions for NEIDs and associated chronic illnesses;  
36  establishing treatment protocols and providing patient care for all  
37  individuals in the State afflicted with NEIDs and associated chronic  
38  illnesses; serving as a repository for NEIDs and associated chronic  
39  illness research data, patient data, and research publications;  
40  serving as a resource for NEIDs and associated chronic illnesses  
41  researchers by sponsoring scientific meetings and encouraging  
42  discourse among researchers; serving as a tertiary resource for both  
43  physicians and patients in their efforts to manage NEIDs and  
44  associated chronic illnesses; and advancing both NEIDs and  
45  associated chronic illness research and patient care by  
46  disseminating the most recent advances in NEIDs and associated  
47  chronic illness research, diagnostics, and treatment protocols; now,  
48  therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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3       1. This House urges the Governor to encourage the establishment  
4 of a research center in this State dedicated to chronic  
5 neuroendocrine immune disorders and associated chronic illnesses.

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7       2. This House respectfully memorializes Congress to encourage  
8 the establishment of a research center in this State dedicated to  
9 chronic neuroendocrine immune disorders and associated chronic  
10 illnesses.

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12       3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
13 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall  
14 be transmitted to:

15       a. The Governor and the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
16 Services; and

17       b. The Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States  
18 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House  
19 of Representatives, and every member of the United States  
20 Congress from this State.

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STATEMENT

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25       This resolution urges the Governor and respectfully  
26 memorializes Congress to encourage the establishment of a research  
27 center in New Jersey dedicated to understanding and treating  
28 chronic neuroendocrine immune disorders (NEIDs), such as chronic  
29 fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalopathy/myalgic encephalitis  
30 (CFS/ME), fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, multiple chemical  
31 sensitivity syndrome, and associated chronic illnesses.

32       It is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
33 (CDC) that CFS/ME affects between one and four million  
34 Americans and that 85% of individuals suffering with this  
35 debilitating and disabling illness have not been properly diagnosed.  
36 The economic impact and loss of worker productivity in the United  
37 States due to CFS/ME, alone, is estimated to be over \$9 billion per  
38 year. Census data and the incidence rate of CFS in the United  
39 States projects that an estimated 28,000 to 30,000 residents of this  
40 State will suffer from CFS/ME. The symptoms of CFS/ME include  
41 flu-like symptoms (sore throat, fever, chills, tender neck, and armpit  
42 lymph nodes, unrefreshing or non-restorative sleep, headaches, and  
43 post-exertional malaise lasting more than 24 hours), as well as  
44 body-wide muscle and joint pain, cognitive impairment, and short-  
45 term memory loss.

46       The CDC reports that fibromyalgia (FM) affects five million  
47 women, men, and children in the United States. FM is a condition  
48 characterized by body-wide muscle pain, tender points, sleep

1 disturbance, cognitive impairment (fibro-fog or brain fog),  
2 overwhelming fatigue, swelling, joint pain, non-restorative sleep,  
3 and migraine headaches.

4 According to the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War  
5 Veterans' Illnesses, Gulf War illness (GWI) is estimated to affect  
6 between 175,000 to 200,000 United States veterans, some of whom  
7 have been suffering for over 17 years. GWI is characterized by  
8 multiple, diverse symptoms that include a combination of memory  
9 and concentration problems, chronic headache, unexplained fatigue,  
10 widespread pain, chronic digestive problems, respiratory symptoms,  
11 and skin rashes.

12 Multiple chemical sensitivity syndrome and other environmental  
13 illnesses are estimated to affect 10% of the American population.  
14 These illnesses have a variable, and overlapping, presentation with  
15 other NEIDs, and have symptoms that include any combination of  
16 extreme fatigue/lethargy, muscle/joint pain, sleep disturbances,  
17 headaches/migraine headaches, sensitivity to light and noise,  
18 dizziness/vertigo, poor memory/poor concentration,  
19 nausea/digestive problems, sore throat, constant coughing,  
20 wheezing, skin rashes, or burning/stinging eyes.