



H.RES. 1149 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO DEVOTE NEW RESOURCES TO RESEARCH THE CAUSES OF THE DISEASE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHERWISE, ALONG WITH TREATMENTS AND WORKFORCE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH SARCOIDOSIS

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1149 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) on April 24, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1149 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 30, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1149 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Supports the goals and ideals of National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month;
- Recognizes that sarcoidosis has played a prominent yet hidden role in America's workforce history, being the chief diagnosis of the deaths of fluorescent light bulb workers in Salem, Massachusetts, in the 1940s;
- Recognizes that sarcoidosis disproportionately affects factory workers, Navy deckgrinders, and was the first diagnosis for an overwhelming majority of rescue workers who assisted with the rescue and recovery operations after the attacks on September 11, 2001;
- Acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and organizations who observe National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month with appropriate activities to further promote awareness of the disease; and
- Supports research efforts to better understand the links between sarcoidosis and specific occupations where sarcoidosis is disproportionately represented.

BACKGROUND

According to the National Institutes of Health, sarcoidosis involves inflammation that produces microscopic lumps of cells in various organs of the body. These lumps are called granulomas and can grow and lump together creating many groups of lumps that can be harmful to organs if they form inside an organ, leaving scar tissue and damaging the functional ability of the organ. This occurrence, called sarcoidosis, usually occurs in the lungs or lymph nodes and can form in any of the body's organs including the skin, eyes and liver, but almost always occurs in more than one organ. Sarcoidosis is not preventable, with the inflammation usually going away or remaining in a mild form in most of those afflicted.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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Scientists remain uncertain as to the exact cause of sarcoidosis, but believe that exposure to particles such as dust and certain chemicals, and the body's immune system response to these foreign bodies may contribute to its development. Sarcoidosis occurs mostly in adults between 20 and 40, and at higher rates among African Americans. People most likely to get sarcoidosis include people exposed to agricultural dust, insecticides, pesticides, or mold, as well as firefighters and health care workers.

[National Institutes of Health - Sarcoidosis](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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