

Rep. Slavens offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 267.

A resolution to declare November 2013 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS), also known as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), is a debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch; and

Whereas, While RSDS is thought to be a nerve disorder that generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury, it may also occur without an apparent injury to the afflicted person; and

Whereas, While the causes of RSDS are unknown, the syndrome is thought to be the result of a malfunction of the sympathetic nervous system. RSDS is often misdiagnosed because this condition is either unknown or is poorly understood. The disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones; and

Whereas, The prognosis for patients suffering from RSDS is generally much better when the condition is identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three months of the onset of the first symptoms; and

Whereas, If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly lead to changes in bone and muscle and may become irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the muscles, and eventual disability and unemployment of patients; and

Whereas, A delay in diagnosis or treatment for this syndrome can result in severe physical and physiological problems, and early recognition and prompt treatment of RSDS provide the greatest opportunity for recovery; and

Whereas, RSDS has been described as the most painful syndrome or disease, scoring highest on the McGill pain scale (42), above such events as amputation of a digit and childbirth; and

Whereas, It is estimated that more than 400,000 Americans suffer from CRPS today; and

Whereas, It is in the best interest of the state to educate both individuals and medical professionals regarding this debilitating disease and to promote research to accurately identify, diagnose, and treat this disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare November 2013 as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage increased awareness of RSDS/CRPS throughout November 2013 to help combat this painful disease.