

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 132

Introduced by Schnoor, 15.

WHEREAS, lymphedema is a disease characterized by chronic, progressive, potentially incurable, and often severe and debilitating swelling caused by an accumulation of lymphatic fluid in parts of the body where lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels are damaged or inadequate; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema in adults is most commonly a consequence of damage to the lymphatic system resulting from treatment for cancer; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema affects millions of people of all ages and both genders, many of whom are unaware they have the disease until it has progressed far enough to affect their daily lives or compromise their health; and

WHEREAS, untreated lymphedema often results in disfigurement, pain, disability, and serious infections such as cellulitis, which can require costly medical treatment and hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema is a progressive condition which occurs in four stages (latent, reversible, spontaneously reversible, and elephantiasis); and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of awareness, information, and education affecting both the public and the medical community, lymphedema is often misdiagnosed or undiagnosed resulting in unchecked progression of the untreated disease; and

WHEREAS, lymphedema can be well-controlled or the progression of the disease may be halted if it is correctly diagnosed and then subjected to a multiphase treatment regimen carried out by specially trained, nationally certified professionals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes March 2015 as Lymphedema Awareness

Month in Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Lymphedema Network, the Lymphedema Advocacy Group, the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, the Nebraska Medical Association, the Lancaster County Medical Society, the Metro Omaha Medical Society, the Nebraska Oncology Society, the Oncology Nursing Society chapters in Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center.