

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4670, by Representative Simmons

1 WHEREAS, Arthritis includes more than 100 rheumatic diseases and  
2 conditions that affect joints, tissues surrounding joints, and other  
3 connective tissues; and

4 WHEREAS, Arthritis is a chronic health condition and the leading  
5 cause of physical disability among adults in the United States, and  
6 it is especially common among people with multiple chronic  
7 conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 634,000 adults in Washington state experience  
9 activity limitations caused by arthritis; and

10 WHEREAS, Arthritis causes pain and loss of movement, can limit  
11 everyday activities such as walking and dressing, and can contribute  
12 to serious health complications; and

13 WHEREAS, Arthritis affects an estimated 54 million American  
14 adults, representing approximately 24.1 percent of adults nationwide  
15 and 22.9 percent of adults in Washington state; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 children under the age of 18 in the  
17 United States live with arthritis or other rheumatic conditions,  
18 representing approximately one in every 250 children; and

19 WHEREAS, Arthritis costs the United States economy more than \$304  
20 billion annually, including \$140 billion in direct medical costs and  
21 \$164 billion in lost wages; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 1.25 million Washington residents, including  
23 children and adults, live with arthritis; and

1       WHEREAS, Nationally, 30.5 percent of adults with diabetes and  
2 36.5 percent of adults with cardiovascular disease also have  
3 arthritis; and

4       WHEREAS, Among working age adults with arthritis in Washington  
5 state, approximately 38.8 percent experience work limitations due to  
6 their condition; and

7       WHEREAS, One out of every three United States veterans lives with  
8 arthritis, making it the leading cause of disability among veterans,  
9 with veterans accounting for approximately 17.6 percent of adults  
10 living with arthritis in Washington state; and

11       WHEREAS, Research supporting improved prevention strategies,  
12 interventions, and treatments is critical to reducing the burden of  
13 arthritis and improving quality of life for those affected; and

14       WHEREAS, The month of May was federally designated as National  
15 Arthritis Month in 1972;

16       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
17 of the State of Washington recognizes the significant physical,  
18 economic, and social impact of arthritis on individuals, families,  
19 and communities throughout the state; and

20       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
21 recognizes the month of May as Arthritis Awareness Month and  
22 acknowledges the efforts of organizations working to improve access  
23 to care, education, and support for people living with arthritis.

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