



Kawasaki Disease Foundation
CARING FOR PRECIOUS HEARTS

Kawasaki Disease Foundation 9 Cape Ann Circle Ipswich, MA 01938 www.KDFoundation.org

Resolution to be presented before the
111th CONGRESS
2nd Session

Request: Designation of January 26, 2011 as
"National Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day"

RESOLUTION

Designating January 26, 2011 as "National Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day"

Whereas Kawasaki Disease (also known as KD), is a serious illness characterized by inflammation of blood vessels throughout the body, primarily affecting young children, and can lead to permanent heart disease;

Whereas KD can cause devastating consequences, including life-long aneurysms, stent placement, heart transplants, skin disorders, and childhood anxiety;

Whereas KD, the #1 cause of permanent heart disease in children, is diagnosed in approximately 4000-5000 US children annually primarily under the age of eight, across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines;

Whereas scientific studies indicate that genetic inheritance is an important risk factor;

Whereas despite the serious consequences that can manifest in children with KD, recent instances of young adults suffering heart attacks in their 20's and 30's show evidence of old aneurysms and a missed diagnosis of KD as a child;

Whereas underprivileged and minority communities are particularly devastated by the high cost of known treatment;

Whereas the American Heart Association, the World Heart Federation, and the National Institute of Health recognize the need for proper and timely diagnosis, education, and treatment of KD;

Whereas the lack of public knowledge and understanding of the disease plays a significant role in the overwhelming numbers of undiagnosed and untreated cases of KD, and the dissemination of inaccurate, misleading information contributes to

the obstacles preventing diagnosis and treatment of the disease;

Whereas missed diagnosis of KD can lead to permanent heart disease and untimely death, placing an unnecessary financial burden on the health care system;

Whereas lack of knowledge, combined with the issue that symptoms can disappear, has a particularly detrimental effect on the diagnosis and treatment of KD;

Whereas there is a need to educate health care professionals, parents, and the general public who could be at unknown risk about the disease, and a need for well-trained physicians and emergency room professionals capable of conducting timely diagnosis and treatment activities; and Whereas studies by the Kawasaki Disease Research Center and others consistently reveal that through proper and comprehensive diagnosis and treatment, the symptoms and effects of KD can be substantially decreased and quality of life for the individual can be improved:
Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate--

(1) designates January 26, 2011, as "National Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes Kawasaki Disease (KD) as a significant health concern;

(3) encourages all people of the United States to find out more about KD and its signs and symptoms, and to seek the appropriate treatment and care, if necessary;

(4) expresses the sense of the Senate that the Federal Government has a responsibility to--

(A) endeavor to raise public awareness about KD; and

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access to appropriate research information, as to cause and patient treatment with the purpose of improving the quality of life for children and adults with KD; and

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on Federal, State and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

END"