

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SADDLER, Story, Josephson

Introduced: 3/24/25

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming May 2025 as Myositis Awareness Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** nearly one in 10 Americans has a rare disease, and residents of the state
4 are among those affected by myositis and other rare diseases; and

5 **WHEREAS** idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, collectively referred to as myositis,
6 are rare, chronic, autoimmune muscle-wasting diseases, can cause debilitating muscle
7 inflammation, pain, fatigue, and trouble swallowing, and can result in myositis-associated
8 interstitial lung disease; and

9 **WHEREAS** more research is needed to identify the causes of myositis and modes of
10 treatments for the myositis group of diseases, including anti-melanoma differentiation-
11 associated gene 5 dermatomyositis, antisynthetase syndrome, dermatomyositis, juvenile
12 myositis, necrotizing autoimmune myopathy, inclusion body myositis, and polymyositis; and

13 **WHEREAS**, because myositis is difficult to diagnose, treatment is often delayed and
14 individuals who have myositis often experience difficulty finding a health care provider with
15 expertise in the disease; and

16 **WHEREAS** individuals who suffer from myositis experience a reduced quality of life

1 and a shortened life expectancy from complications related to myositis, especially those with
2 inclusion body myositis, and no cure has been found; and

3 **WHEREAS** The Myositis Association is the leading international patient advocacy
4 organization serving the myositis community, with a focus on patient services, education,
5 research, and public awareness to achieve a world without myositis; and

6 **WHEREAS** The Myositis Association is organizing a nationwide observance of
7 myositis awareness for the month of May 2025;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** the Alaska State Legislature encourages residents of the state to
9 come together, learn about the symptoms and types of myositis, and support individuals and
10 families in local communities who are affected by myositis and can benefit from greater
11 awareness of these rare diseases; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
13 May 2025 as Myositis Awareness Month.