

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Relating to recognition of November as Pica Awareness Month in Missouri.

WHEREAS, the word pica is derived from the Latin word for magpie, a bird known for its large and indiscriminate appetite; and

WHEREAS, Pica is also the name of an eating disorder which is identified by the persistent craving and compulsive eating of nonedible food substances such as chalk, hair, dirt, sand and even household cleaners; and

WHEREAS, Pica is most common in people with developmental disabilities, including autism, and in children between the ages of two and three; and

WHEREAS, Pica can also affect adults, pregnant women, people with epilepsy, traumatic brain injuries, or poor nutrition and low blood levels of iron or other minerals; and

WHEREAS, it remains difficult to identify Pica as many sufferers consume the substances in secret and physicians can have a difficult time identifying the cause of Pica-related health problems; and

WHEREAS, such symptoms and side effects include iron-deficiency anemia, lead or other poisoning, bowel obstruction, and even death; and

WHEREAS, there are no known methods of preventing Pica but when Pica is known or suspected, measures can be taken to reduce further ingestion of the nonfood substances; and

WHEREAS, parents should monitor the food and other substances that their children consume, particularly children who eat paint chips in homes with lead paint as such consumption can lead to lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Pica Awareness Month would provide an appropriate venue to communicate an important message to the public about this largely unknown but potentially extremely harmful eating disorder to ensure affected persons are accurately diagnosed and treated:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize each year the month of November as "Pica Awareness Month"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the state of Missouri are encouraged to participate in appropriate activities such as wearing the color orange to raise awareness of Pica; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send properly inscribed copies of this resolution to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.