



# Tennessee Senate

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 935

By Senator Massey

and

Representative Clemmons

## A RESOLUTION

to commemorate May 2024 as "Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and studies suggest that approximately one in two women and up to one in four men age fifty and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffered approximately 2.1 million osteoporotic fractures a year, and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, or breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries was \$57 billion in 2018 and is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in 2040 without reforms, as the population ages; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, over 123,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 147,700 osteoporotic fractures in 2016; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 6,000 Tennesseans on Medicare suffered not just an initial fracture but also a subsequent fracture, resulting in estimated costs of over \$114 million; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging. Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis; care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach our peak bone mass by early adulthood; and

WHEREAS, optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one cannot feel bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays; and

WHEREAS, cost effective post-fracture care that improves care coordination has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among the public, health professionals, and policy makers; now, therefore,

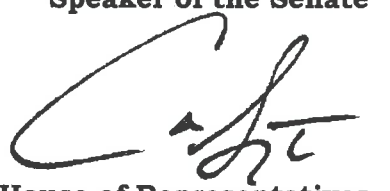
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commemorate May 2024 as "Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

Adopted: March 7, 2024

  
Senator Becky Massey



  
Speaker of the Senate

  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

  
Governor