

House Concurrent Resolution No. 36

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ENGLISH.

2354L.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
43 be instructed to send properly inscribed copies of this resolution to the Governor for his approval
44 or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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