WHEREAS, the estimated 15 million people in the United States, and an estimated 3.5 percent of the world's population, have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, (FMS), or illness for which there is yet no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, a chronic syndrome that is increasing at alarming rates, Fibromyalgia causes debilitating widespread pain and fatigue, appears to have a genetic component, and occurs in women, men, and children of all ages; and

WHEREAS, patients with Fibromyalgia often have to learn to live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, it often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated regarding the disease; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 study found that FM patients spend between $10,000-$10,000 per month above insurance costs to see a healthcare provider, costs in the United States are estimated between $10-$12 billion per year and account for 1%-2% of the country’s healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, 55% of patients have received disability payments, and total healthcare costs may be $25-30 billion per year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with Fibromyalgia have had little or no access to government benefits and subsidies for which they qualify; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of comprehensive, evidence-based medical tools; use of complementary and alternative medicine is 2-1/2 times higher in FM patients; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit charitable organization, the National Fibromyalgia Association (NFA), along with many physicians agree that there is a need for more physician-oriented education and research needs; and

WHEREAS, the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc. (IIHE), a non-profit organization in the Capital District of New York, is the sponsor of various NFA activities; and

WHEREAS, The International Institute for Human Empowerment, through the leadership of its Founder and Executive Director Sue Shier, PhD, recently initiated a Fibromyalgia Task Force with the goal of increasing awareness and expanding knowledge of Fibromyalgia Awareness, Advocacy and Action, of which 5,000 reports have already been distributed locally, nationally, and internationally, to create a scholarship for Fibromyalgia patients to attend a national conference in 2013, and to increase public awareness and knowledge; and

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