



Fibromyalgia Task Force
of the
International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc.
PROCLAIMS

Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York, May 10-17, 2020

Whereas, An estimated 10-12 million people in the United States, and an estimated 3-6 percent of the world's population, have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, an 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 ethnicities; 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 diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, According to a Fact Sheet provided by the National Fibromyalgia Association, 90% of physicians agree there is a need for more physician-oriented information, and 82% of physicians agree that Fibromyalgia is difficult to treat with currently available tools. Use of complementary and alternative medicine is 2 ½ times higher in Fibromyalgia patients; and

Whereas, Patients report that the optimal approach to treating Fibromyalgia is a Team of Physicians, with traditional and complementary therapists, tailoring the treatment for each individual patient. This can be accomplished best in an arrangement that facilitates communication between the patient and the Team. Awareness events need to be expanded that will continue to promote understanding and support within the broader community; and

Whereas, Fibromyalgia patients are often misunderstood by the medical, business, and education communities, primarily due to the lack of teaching in medical schools about what is currently known regarding this potentially disabling illness; and

Whereas, Fibromyalgia patients often lose jobs, insurance, homes, and spouses or significant others due to lack of awareness and understanding about the potentially devastating impact of Fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, The International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization in the Capital District of New York, is dedicated to empowering all who face discrimination as a result of race, gender, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, and lifestyle choices; and

Whereas, The International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., under the leadership of Sue Shipe, PhD, developed the Fibromyalgia Task Force to address inequities in the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia patients due to lack of adequate education of physicians regarding this illness; and

Whereas, The Fibromyalgia Task Force of the International Institute For Human Empowerment, Inc., is developing a website for healthcare providers and patients that will provide information for the diagnosis and treatment of Fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, The Fibromyalgia Task Force website will contain essential information for physicians that promotes further understanding of the current research; and

Whereas, The Fibromyalgia Task Force website will contain a section for patients and caregivers and interested community members that provides general patient information regarding the illness, diagnosis, and treatments. Treatment options will include current traditional as well as complementary therapies found useful by Fibromyalgia patients; and

Whereas, The Fibromyalgia Task Force patient section of the website will contain information regarding Social Security Disability, how to apply, as well as information pertaining to reasonable accommodations and disabilities; and

Whereas, This Fibromyalgia Task Force recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who suffer from Fibromyalgia, and urges all of our citizens to support the search for more effective treatments, prevention, and cure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the International Institute For Human Empowerment, and the Fibromyalgia Task Force, proclaim May 10-17, 2020, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; New York Health Works; and relevant health organizations in the State of New York.