

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

Senators Geiss, Wojno, Bayer, Polehanki, Santana, Ananich and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize June 2019 as Lipedema Awareness  
2   Month.

3       Whereas, Lipedema is a chronic and painful lymphatic disease  
4   that occurs almost exclusively in women and is thought to affect  
5   between 10 to 17 million people in America; and

6       Whereas, Lipedema is characterized by bilateral, excess  
7   symmetrical fatty tissue that bruises easily, mainly in the hip  
8   region, upper and lower leg areas, or upper arms, combined with a  
9   tendency for leg swelling that worsens when standing; and

10       Whereas, The etiology of lipedema and other types of fatty  
11   tissue enlargement is still unknown, although a genetic cause is

1 suspected; and

2       Whereas, Individuals who suffer from this disease are further  
3 impacted by the absence of diagnostic tools, the lack of public and  
4 medical awareness of lipedema, and the stigma associated with  
5 weight gain; and

6       Whereas, Patients suffering from lipedema cannot simply shed  
7 the additional weight and size through typical or extreme weight  
8 loss measures; and

9       Whereas, The disease is progressive through four stages, which  
10 means that the condition gradually worsens and is degenerative,  
11 painful, disfiguring, and can lead to permanent disability; and

12       Whereas, Certain types of liposuction are the only treatments  
13 that can reverse the pain, disfigurement, and immobility caused by  
14 lipedema; and

15       Whereas, Most lipedema patients cannot access this surgery due  
16 to its classification as a cosmetic procedure and the costs  
17 associated with paying out-of-pocket, which can be tens of  
18 thousands of dollars, and many require numerous surgeries to treat  
19 their condition; now, therefore, be it

20       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
21 body recognize June 2019 as Lipedema Awareness Month; and be it  
22 further

23       Resolved, That we urge the medical community to expand both  
24 education and research of this painful disease and to spread  
25 awareness of lipedema while advocating for Michiganders who may be  
26 suffering in silence.