

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 790

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Polycystic kidney disease is the most prevalent  
2 life-threatening genetic disease in the United States, with a  
3 devastating impact on people regardless of gender, age, race,  
4 geographic location, or income; 600,000 people nationwide have the  
5 genetic predisposition for the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, One of the four leading causes of kidney failure in  
7 the United States, PKD also damages the cardiovascular, endocrine,  
8 hepatic, and gastrointestinal systems; the average PKD patient  
9 reaches kidney failure by the age of 53, requiring dialysis or a  
10 transplant; and

11 WHEREAS, Those who carry the PKD gene live every day with the  
12 potential of a life-threatening disease; people with chronic  
13 ailments like PKD are predisposed to depression at a rate seven  
14 times the national average, and fear of the disease and limited  
15 public awareness may even cause patients to live in denial and  
16 forego proper health management; moreover, the stress of the  
17 disease extends beyond the patient, as spouses, parents, children,  
18 and other loved ones shoulder an increased physical, emotional, and  
19 financial burden; and

20 WHEREAS, PKD is also causing a severe strain on the national  
21 health care system; dialysis, kidney transplantation, and  
22 immunosuppressant drugs are among the fastest-growing expenditures  
23 for Medicare, at an annual cost of \$2 billion; and

24 WHEREAS, Improvements in diagnostic technology and in

1 scientific knowledge are offering hope; the three primary genes  
2 responsible for PKD and their three primary protein products have  
3 been discovered, and multiple clinical trials have led to a deeper  
4 understanding of the disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Further technological innovation, continued  
6 scientific research through the National Institute of Health, and  
7 collaborative public-private partnerships can generate therapies  
8 for PKD and save billions in tax dollars under Medicare, Medicaid,  
9 and other programs and can make available several thousand openings  
10 on the transplant waiting list; and

11 WHEREAS, Nationwide, thousands of volunteers are dedicated  
12 to expanding essential research and fostering public awareness of  
13 PKD; their selfless efforts are directed at educating PKD patients  
14 and their families in order to improve treatment and care, provide  
15 moral support, and encourage people to sign up as organ donors; and

16 WHEREAS, Increasing public awareness of PKD is essential to  
17 helping to lessen the terrible human and financial toll of this  
18 disease and to find a cure, and participating in National  
19 Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week is one way to support this  
20 effort; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize September 9-15, 2007, as National  
23 Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, and encourage all Texans  
24 to support research and public education concerning this disease.