

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne disease
2 in the United States, affecting nearly four million Americans and
3 an estimated 218,000 to 325,000 Texans; and

4 WHEREAS, Because symptoms may not manifest for years, as many
5 as three-quarters of the individuals with the disease are unaware
6 that they are infected; left undetected and untreated, hepatitis C
7 can cause potentially life-threatening liver damage, and infected
8 persons can unknowingly transmit the disease to others; and

9 WHEREAS, Risks for transmission are associated with exposure
10 to contaminated blood through blood transfusions, blood products,
11 organ transplants, needle-stick injuries in health care settings,
12 unsterilized medical or tattoo equipment, sharing of personal care
13 items such as razors or toothbrushes, or being born to a hepatitis
14 C-infected mother; hepatitis C develops into a chronic infection in
15 over 75 percent of cases and is the leading cause of cirrhosis and
16 liver cancer, potentially requiring the need for liver transplant
17 in advanced stages; and

18 WHEREAS, While no vaccine exists for hepatitis C, recognizing
19 the risk factors can help decrease the chance of infection, and
20 timely screening and care of hepatitis C can reduce the risk of
21 liver cancer by as much as 70 percent and mortality rates by 50
22 percent; and

23 WHEREAS, Efforts to counter the spread of hepatitis C center
24 around educating health care workers, emergency services

1 personnel, and the general public, particularly veterans and aging
2 and minority populations that are disproportionately affected by
3 the disease; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4 recommends that all individuals born between 1945 and 1965 receive
5 a one-time hepatitis C test, which could save more than 100,000
6 lives; and

7 WHEREAS, Public awareness is a valuable tool in reducing the
8 burden of this serious condition, and with the cooperation of every
9 Texas citizen, we can advance the effective management and
10 treatment of this infection, prevent disability and loss of income,
11 and enable more people touched by hepatitis C to live full and
12 productive lives; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize May 2015 as Hepatitis C Awareness
15 Month and urge all Texans to educate themselves about the causes,
16 symptoms, and treatment of hepatitis C.

Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 2923

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2923 was adopted by the House on May 21, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House