

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 2923

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.