

By: Sheffield

H.R. No. 177

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Bleeding disorders, including hemophilia and von
2 Willebrand disease, are genetic disorders that prevent the blood of
3 sufferers from clotting properly, leading to debilitating and
4 potentially fatal bleeding episodes; and

5 WHEREAS, About 20,000 people in the United States are
6 estimated to be affected with hemophilia, which results from a
7 missing or deficient protein needed for blood clotting; an X-linked
8 recessive trait, hemophilia is primarily found in males; and

9 WHEREAS, The most common bleeding disorder, von Willebrand
10 disease, also results from a defective blood protein but is
11 typically milder than hemophilia; it is believed to affect up to one
12 percent of the U.S. population, and many individuals, particularly
13 women, go undiagnosed; and

14 WHEREAS, Bleeding disorders can vary greatly in severity,
15 with the most serious cases of hemophilia carrying the risk of
16 excessive bleeding from accidents and surgeries, in addition to
17 long-term damage to organs, tissues, and joints from internal
18 bleeding over time; in recent decades, new medical developments and
19 donor screening measures have greatly improved the safety and
20 effectiveness of treatments such as factor replacement therapy,
21 which can help patients to live normal, healthy lives; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2016, the National Hemophilia Foundation
23 declared March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month; this
24 initiative is supported by Texas-based groups such as the Texas

1 Bleeding Disorders Coalition, which is encouraging residents to
2 participate in the Red Tie Challenge to help start a conversation
3 about inheritable bleeding disorders and to promote advocacy for
4 people who are living with bleeding disorders all over the world;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, While science and medicine have advanced greatly in
7 the treatment of bleeding disorders, increased public awareness is
8 needed to help ease the heavy financial burden and improve the
9 quality of life of patients, and Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month
10 provides an opportune time to join together in support of these
11 worthy goals; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 2017 as Bleeding Disorders
14 Awareness Month and urge all Texans to learn more about these
15 conditions.