86R9318 BK-D

By:  Guillen H.C.R. No. 43

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, More than 30 million people are estimated to have kidney disease in the United States, and one in every three Americans is at risk for developing the disease due to diabetes, high blood pressure, or a family history of renal failure; and

WHEREAS, The kidneys are vital organs that perform a number of tasks crucial to overall health, including filtering blood, regulating blood pressure, and controlling red blood cell production; and

WHEREAS, Chronic kidney disease is characterized by the gradual loss of kidney function, which in advanced stages results in the dangerous buildup of fluids, electrolytes, and wastes in the body; because kidney disease often has few or no symptoms in its early stages, it frequently goes unnoticed until kidney function is significantly impaired; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 50,000 Texans receiving dialysis due to impaired kidney function, and the cost of providing this treatment is high, at an average of more than $80,000 per person annually; in 2016, the total Medicare cost of chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease was a combined $114 billion; in addition, kidney patients comprise the vast majority of those on the national organ transplant waiting list, where they face a median wait time of 3.6 years; and

WHEREAS, Chronic kidney disease imposes a heavy physical, emotional, and economic burden, but studies have continuously attested to the benefits of early detection and treatment in reducing the incidence of end-stage renal disease and lessening the need for renal dialysis and transplants to keep patients healthy; the observance of Kidney Health Awareness Month provides an opportunity to focus attention on a health issue that may be going unnoticed by many thousands of Texans, as well as to highlight chronic kidney disease as an urgent priority for our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate February as Kidney Health Awareness Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date that this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.