By:  Johnson of Harris (Senate Sponsor - Miles) H.C.R. No. 117

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019; May 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Administration; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hughes          X

Fallon          X

Huffman                   X

Johnson         X

Menéndez        X

Nichols                   X

Zaffirini       X

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a hereditary genetic mutation that causes the body to produce red blood cells with an abnormal crescent shape, resulting in impeded blood flow and a shortage of healthy red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans; the condition is far more common among black or African Americans, occurring in about 1 out of every 365 individuals, and the sickle cell trait is present in 1 in every 13 black or African American infants at birth; around 1 in every 16,300 Hispanic American newborns also suffers from the condition; and

WHEREAS, Although most Americans with the sickle cell trait live normal lives with few complications, sickle cell disease can potentially lead to anemia, infections, chronic pain, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, and stroke; because severe cases can be life-threatening, it is imperative that affected individuals have ready access to comprehensive medical care; sadly, inadequate infrastructure and socioeconomic factors are responsible for considerable disparities in health outcomes for sickle cell patients; and

WHEREAS, The Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act, which was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972, aimed to "reverse the record of neglect of the dreaded disease" by increasing funding for sickle cell disease-related programs; National Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month was officially recognized by the federal government under the administration of President Ronald Reagan in 1983, and additional legislative acts focused on advancing the treatment, detection, and study of the disease were passed in 2003 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, At this time, there is still no widely available or universal cure for sickle cell disease, but researchers are currently working to identify new treatments; greater public support remains an important tool in the fight against this debilitating disorder, and Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in September serves as an opportunity to unite Texans around the goal of ensuring that all people with the condition are afforded the care that they need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate September as Sickle Cell Disease 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 this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.

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