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By:  Johnson of Harris H.R. No. 1470

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Sickle Cell Association of Houston, Inc., and its founder, Tonya Prince, are making vital contributions to the well-being of people with sickle cell disease in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prince established the organization alongside her daughter, Quannecia McCruse, who suffers from sickle cell disease; the hereditary genetic disorder, which is more common in individuals of African descent, causes some red blood cells to become rigid and crescent-shaped, leading to obstructed blood flow and anemia; in serious cases, affected patients can experience periodic and at times debilitating episodes of pain, as well as potentially life-threatening complications such as organ damage, infections, pulmonary embolism, and stroke; and

WHEREAS, Serving as a care coordination center, the Sickle Cell Association of Houston is staffed with certified genetics education counselors, community health workers, and patient navigators; SCA Houston is focused on achieving better health outcomes for the local sickle cell population, and in addition to connecting patients with medical resources, the organization hosts a monthly support group, educational programs, and professional seminars; its outreach efforts have included a 5K and 1K walk and a blood drive held in partnership with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in September; and

WHEREAS, Under the dedicated leadership of Tonya Prince, the Sickle Cell Association of Houston has excelled in its mission of empowering Houstonians with sickle cell disease to "live without limits," and it is a pleasure to recognize the group for its important work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Tonya Prince and the Sickle Cell Association of Houston, Inc., and extend to all those affiliated with SCA Houston sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for SCA Houston as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.