

By: Johnson of Harris

H.C.R. No. 117

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

5 WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease
6 Control and Prevention, sickle cell disease affects approximately
7 100,000 Americans; the condition is far more common among black or
8 African Americans, occurring in about 1 out of every 365
9 individuals, and the sickle cell trait is present in 1 in every 13
10 black or African American infants at birth; around 1 in every 16,300
11 Hispanic American newborns also suffers from the condition; and

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

21 WHEREAS, The Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act, which was signed
22 into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972, aimed to "reverse the
23 record of neglect of the dreaded disease" by increasing funding for
24 sickle cell disease-related programs; National Sickle Cell Anemia

1 Awareness Month was officially recognized by the federal government
2 under the administration of President Ronald Reagan in 1983, and
3 additional legislative acts focused on advancing the treatment,
4 detection, and study of the disease were passed in 2003 and 2018;
5 and

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

14 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
18 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
19 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
20 passed by the legislature.