

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is the most common inherited
2 hemoglobin disorder, but despite its high mortality rates and
3 severe economic impact, the need for effective therapies remains
4 unmet; and

5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6 estimates that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000
7 Americans, occurring among about 1 in every 365 African American
8 births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births; and

9 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease can affect any organ, including
10 the kidneys, lungs, and spleen; vaso-occlusive crises are common
11 among patients, causing recurrent episodes of acute pain and
12 leading to irreversible end-organ damage, poor quality of life, and
13 stroke; the life expectancy among sufferers is reduced, tragically,
14 by some 25 to 30 years; and

15 WHEREAS, According to a 2018 study, sickle cell disease
16 imposes a nearly \$3 billion economic burden on the U.S. healthcare
17 system each year, of which 57 percent is attributed to hospital
18 inpatient costs; more than 70 percent of patients are insured under
19 state Medicaid programs; and

20 WHEREAS, The sickle cell disease patient community has long
21 been medically underserved; in 1972, then-president Richard Nixon
22 signed the Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act and pledged to end neglect
23 of the disease, but today, patients still encounter social,
24 economic, cultural, and geographic barriers to quality care,

1 including inconsistent treatments, high reliance on emergency care
2 and public health programs, limited participation in clinical
3 trials, and lack of access to the limited number of medical
4 providers with appropriate knowledge and experience; and

5 WHEREAS, With rapid advancement in such technologies as gene
6 editing, sickle cell disease stakeholders are working diligently to
7 expand availability of the transformative therapies that are
8 currently building clinical momentum; in 2018, the National
9 Institutes of Health launched the National Heart, Lung, and Blood
10 Institute Cure Sickle Cell Initiative to accelerate the development
11 of therapies to cure the disease; at the end of the following year,
12 the Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval for a
13 new treatment, and it has granted Orphan Drug designation to sickle
14 cell disease therapies in order to encourage scientific innovation;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The costs of sickle cell disease are enormous in
17 both human and economic terms, but medical science provides hope of
18 a long-awaited cure; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby express support for equitable access to transformative
21 therapies for sickle cell disease.

J. Johnson of Harris

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 86 was adopted by the House on May 18, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 86 was adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor