

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 35

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES STORCH (Sponsor), EL-AMIN, WETER, WALSH, GRISAMORE, JONES (63), GRILL, NASHEED, PACE, OXFORD, WILDBERGER, WALTON GRAY, ROORDA, YAEGER, MORRIS, BROWN (50), CARTER, WEBB, CALLOWAY, CURLS, ATKINS, CHAPPELLE-NADAL, LeBLANC AND HOSKINS (80) (Co-sponsors).

1794L.021

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **Whereas**, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood  
2 cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain an abnormal type of  
3 hemoglobin; and  
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5           **Whereas**, normal red blood cells contain hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin S and  
6 hemoglobin C are abnormal types of hemoglobin; and  
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8           **Whereas**, red blood cells containing mostly hemoglobin S do not live as long as  
9 normal red blood cells and have difficulty passing through the body's small vessels. These  
10 hemoglobin S red blood cells can block small blood vessels, resulting in tissue damage due to  
11 less blood reaching that portion of the body; and  
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13           **Whereas**, sickle cell trait is an inherited condition in which both hemoglobin A and  
14 S are produced in the red blood cells, always more A than S. Sickle cell trait is not a type of  
15 sickle cell disease; and  
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17           **Whereas**, sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents in much the same way  
18 as blood type, hair color and texture, eye color and other physical traits. The types of  
19 hemoglobin a person makes in the red blood cells depend upon what hemoglobin genes the  
20 person inherits from his or her parents; and  
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22           **Whereas**, since sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents, it is important for  
23 people to be aware if they are a carrier before having children; and  
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25       **Whereas**, more than 72,000 people in the United States have sickle cell disease,  
26 affecting mostly persons of African heritage according to the National Institute of Health.  
27 Currently, there is no universal cure for sickle cell disease; and  
28

29       **Whereas**, based on the population of 5 million in the State of Missouri, 600,000  
30 are African American. 1 out of 400 suffers with sickle cell conditions and 1 out of 12 has the  
31 sickle cell trait; and  
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33       **Whereas**, with these estimated numbers, there are approximately 1,500 individuals  
34 with sickle cell conditions and 50,000 individuals with sickle cell trait in the State of Missouri;  
35 and  
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37       **Whereas**, approximately 700 children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle  
38 cell disease reside in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. However, less than 25% of this sickle cell  
39 population will graduate from high school or seek higher education; and  
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41       **Whereas**, health maintenance for persons with sickle cell disease starts with early  
42 diagnosis, preferably when a newborn; and  
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44       **Whereas**, treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management,  
45 intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, and surgery in combination with psychosocial support;  
46 and  
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48       **Whereas**, there are promising new treatments being developed which can prevent  
49 red blood cells from sickling without causing harm to other parts of the body, reduce the  
50 frequency of severe pain, acute chest syndrome, and the need for blood transfusions, and provide  
51 options to eliminate iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions; and  
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53       **Whereas**, public awareness about sickle cell trait and disease and the numerous  
54 programs and screening available is vital to reduce to pervasiveness of sickle cell conditions:  
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57           **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
58 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
59 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to address the pervasiveness of sickle  
60 cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the available programs and  
61 screenings; and  
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63           **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
64 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each  
65 member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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