

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY.

2389H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to sickle cell awareness week.

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

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells.

2 People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin;
3 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 as
18 blood type, hair color and texture, eye color, and other physical traits. The types of hemoglobin
19 a person makes in their red blood cells depends upon what hemoglobin genes the person inherits
20 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 90,000 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

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29 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease results in a shortened life expectancy, with the average
30 life expectancy being 42 years for men and 48 years for women; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, based on the population of 6 million in the state of Missouri, 700,000 are
33 African American. 1 out of 400 suffers from sickle cell conditions and 1 out of 12 has the sickle
34 cell trait; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, with these estimated numbers, there are approximately 1,750 individuals
37 with sickle cell conditions and 58,000 individuals with the sickle cell trait in the state of
38 Missouri; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, approximately 700 children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle cell
41 disease reside in the St. Louis metropolitan area. However, less than 25% of this sickle cell
42 population will graduate from high school or seek higher education; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, health maintenance for persons with sickle cell disease starts with early
45 diagnosis, preferably as a newborn; and

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47 **WHEREAS**, treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management,
48 intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, and surgery in combination with psychosocial support;
49 and

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51 **WHEREAS**, there are promising new treatments being developed which can prevent red
52 blood cells from sickling without causing harm to other parts of the body, reduce the frequency
53 of severe pain and acute chest syndrome, reduce the need for blood transfusions, and provide
54 options to eliminate iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions; and

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56 **WHEREAS**, public awareness about sickle cell trait and disease and the numerous
57 programs and screenings available is vital to reduce the pervasiveness of sickle cell conditions:

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59 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
60 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate

61 concurring therein, hereby designate the third full week in September as "Sickle Cell Awareness
62 Week" in Missouri; and

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and urges all
65 citizens of this state to participate in activities during Sickle Cell Awareness Week to address
66 the pervasiveness of sickle cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the
67 available programs and screenings; and

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69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
70 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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