

HR 9109

2014

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the importance of sickle cell  
3 awareness in the State of Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease, an inherited group of red  
6 blood cell disorders, affects an estimated 90,000 to 100,000  
7 individuals in the United States, and approximately 3 million  
8 people carry the sickle cell trait, and

9 WHEREAS, most common in African Americans, sickle cell  
10 disease affects other ethnic populations, including those of  
11 Greek, Turkish, Italian, Hispanic, and Indian descent, and

12 WHEREAS, the name "sickle cell" originates from the effects  
13 that the disease has on red blood cells, changing normal red  
14 blood cells into crescent-shaped cells that resemble the sickle,  
15 a common tool used by farmers, and

16 WHEREAS, the sickle cells become trapped in small blood  
17 vessels and block the flow of blood and oxygen to organs in the  
18 body, causing repeated episodes of severe pain, organ damage,  
19 serious infection, or even stroke, and

20 WHEREAS, people with sickle cell disease begin developing  
21 symptoms during the first year of life, usually around 5 months  
22 of age, and the symptoms and complications differ for each  
23 person and can range from mild to severe, and

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24           WHEREAS, though sickle cell has no widely available cure,  
25 there are various treatments that can help relieve symptoms and  
26 treat complications, NOW, THEREFORE,

27  
28 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
29 Florida:

30  
31           That the residents of Florida are encouraged to support  
32 those individuals and their families who are touched by sickle  
33 cell disease.