

By Senator Rouson

19-03595-20

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing September 2020 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most common inherited blood disorders affecting approximately 100,000 children and adults in the United States, with 1 in 365 African Americans and 1 in 16,300 Hispanic Americans living with the disease, and

WHEREAS, more than 8,800 Florida residents live with SCD, which is the highest number of individuals living with the disease in any state in the nation, and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disease involving multicellular adhesion between red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and endothelial cells, often resulting in vaso-occlusive crises, and

WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises are the hallmark of sickle cell disease, with recurrent episodes inducing severe pain, decreasing quality of life, and causing life-threatening complications, including stroke, leading to hospitalization or death, and

WHEREAS, a vaso-occlusive crisis is the number one reason individuals living with SCD visit emergency rooms or are hospitalized for several days, and

WHEREAS, the total estimated lifetime costs for the medical care of an individual living with SCD who reaches the age of 50 years may range from \$1.7 to \$8.7 million, with total annual medical costs for all patients living with SCD estimated to exceed \$1.1 billion, and

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30 WHEREAS, access to care may be challenging for individuals
31 living with SCD due to a lack of physicians experienced in
32 treating the disease, and

33 WHEREAS, many young adults living with SCD who are
34 transitioning from pediatric care seek treatment in emergency
35 settings, with hospital readmissions being significantly higher
36 for patients ages 18 to 30 years compared to younger patients,
37 and

38 WHEREAS, only four medications have been approved to treat
39 complications resulting from SCD, and

40 WHEREAS, increasing awareness and education of SCD may lead
41 to significant progress in finding a cure and improving access
42 to treatment and the quality of care for individuals living with
43 SCD, NOW, THEREFORE,

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45 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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47 That September 2020 is recognized as "Sickle Cell Disease
48 Awareness Month" in Florida.