

HR 8063

2020

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing September 2020 as "Sickle  
3 Cell Disease Awareness Month" in Florida.  
4

5 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most  
6 common, inherited blood disorders affecting approximately  
7 100,000 children and adults in the United States, with 1 in 365  
8 African Americans and 1 in 16,300 Hispanic Americans living with  
9 the disease, and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, a vaso-occlusive crisis is a primary reason  
23 individuals living with SCD may visit emergency rooms or may be  
24 hospitalized for several days, and

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25           WHEREAS, individuals living with SCD may confront several  
26 challenges such as covering costs, treating the disease, and  
27 transitioning from pediatric care, and

28           WHEREAS, only four medications have been approved to treat  
29 complications resulting from SCD, and

30           WHEREAS, increasing awareness and education of SCD may lead  
31 to significant progress in preventing, treating, and overcoming  
32 the disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

33

34 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
35 Florida:

36

37           That September 2020 is recognized as "Sickle Cell Disease  
38 Awareness Month" in Florida.