

HR 8067

2025

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 19, 2025, as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease refers to a group of inherited disorders that affect red blood cells, and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and that do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells, which leads to anemia, and

WHEREAS, the sickle cells also get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, resulting in vaso-occlusive crises, which can cause pain and organ damage, and

WHEREAS, one common type of sickle cell disease is sickle cell anemia, in which individuals with the disease are born with two sickle cell genes, each inherited from one parent, and

WHEREAS, an individual with only one sickle cell gene has a "sickle cell trait," which occurs in about 1 out of every 12 African Americans and 1 out of every 100 Hispanic Americans, and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans, and occurs among about 1 in every 365 Black or African-American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births, and

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25        WHEREAS, more than 8,000 Floridians have sickle cell  
26        disease, and

27        WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health is working on  
28        innovative genetic therapies that could someday cure sickle cell  
29        disease, and

30        WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has  
31        granted orphan drug designation to sickle cell therapies a  
32        designation that provides incentives and encourages the  
33        development of therapies for rare diseases, and

34        WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that  
35        can affect any organ, including the kidneys, lungs, and spleen,  
36        and research indicates that patients experience many severe  
37        complications, including stroke, infections, and pulmonary  
38        embolism, and have a shorter life expectancy than the general  
39        population, and

40        WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises are a common, painful  
41        complication of sickle cell disease in adolescents and adults  
42        which may occur several times a year; and these recurrent  
43        episodes induce severe pain, decrease quality of life, cause  
44        life-threatening complications such as stroke, and are  
45        associated with increased mortality, and

46        WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises can cause intense pain that  
47        lasts anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks, and

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WHEREAS, sickle cell disease can be a life-threatening condition leading to a 20 to 30-year reduction in life expectancy, and

WHEREAS, individuals living with sickle cell disease encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their quality of life, and these barriers include limitations in geographic access to comprehensive care, the varied use of effective treatments, lack of insurance, and the limited number of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage and treat sickle cell disease, and

WHEREAS, while there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, one-time gene therapies, including gene editing therapeutic approaches, are being developed and may offer potential cures for some patients, and

WHEREAS, curative therapies for sickle cell disease may offer substantial savings over the patient's lifetime by avoiding the cost of future health services, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That June 19, 2025, is recognized as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.