

House Concurrent Resolution No. 36

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WALKER (74).

1849H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is a group of genetic red blood cell disorders that include
2 sickle cell anemia - a condition in which the red blood cells become hard and sticky and take on
3 a curved shape, like a sickle, making it hard for them to move through the bloodstream which
4 causes damage to the blood vessels resulting in complications such as lung, spleen, kidney, or
5 liver damage, and stroke which leads to severe pain and disability; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is the most common hereditary hematologic disorder in
8 the world, which occurs in individuals who are born with two sickle cell genes, each inherited
9 from one parent. This affects approximately 100,000 Americans; and
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11 **WHEREAS**, 2.5 million Americans or one out of every 12 African Americans and one
12 out of every 100 Latinos in the United States have only one sickle cell gene which is called
13 “sickle cell trait”, and unlike most people with sickle cell disease, people who have sickle cell
14 trait may never know they have it and can live their entire lives without complications from it;
15 and
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17 **WHEREAS**, people with sickle cell trait should be aware of their condition for family
18 planning purposes because they can pass the gene onto their children. If both parents have sickle
19 cell trait, there is a greater chance that one or more of their children will be born with sickle cell
20 disease; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri provides newborn screening to all children born in the
23 state since 1989 which includes tests for sickle cell disease and trait, and this has reduced the
24 death rate for children born with sickle cell disease due to earlier interventions; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, there is currently only one FDA approved drug for sickle cell disease
27 because developing new medicines and other treatment options is a complex process that
28 involves clinical trials to explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe and
29 effective; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, many barriers exist that account for the low rate of participation among
32 diverse communities including patient fear of experimentation and lack of understanding or
33 education with regard to the importance of clinical trials in creating new treatments and cures;
34 and

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36 **WHEREAS**, September is recognized nationwide as Sickle Cell Awareness Month:

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38 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
39 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
40 concurring therein, hereby designate the month of September, as "Sickle Cell Awareness Month"
41 in Missouri; and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and urges all
44 citizens of this state to participate in activities during Sickle Cell Awareness Month to address
45 the pervasiveness of sickle cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the
46 available programs and screenings.

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