

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 238

By Robinson

A RESOLUTION to designate November 2019 as "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a devastating inherited blood disorder that affects thousands of people in our State and an estimated 100,000 individuals across the country; and

WHEREAS, the disease causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia; jaundice; gallstones; strokes; restricted blood flow; damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys; and death; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease causes episodes of considerable pain in the arms, legs, chest, and abdomen of an individual; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease every year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately one in every 365 newborn African-American infants and one in every 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and is found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin; and

WHEREAS, more than 3 million individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait, and one in thirteen African Americans carries the trait; and

WHEREAS, there is a one in four chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease. The life expectancy of an individual with sickle cell disease is often severely limited; and

WHEREAS, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is currently the only cure for sickle cell disease and advances in treating the associated complications of sickle cell disease have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help patients with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the Sickle Cell Foundation is working to improve the quality of life for those fighting sickle cell disease by providing sickle cell counseling, screening, education, emotional support, and financial support to patients and their families; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate November 2019 as "Sickle Cell Awareness Month" in Tennessee and encourage increased awareness of the effects of sickle cell disease, preventive care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from the disease.