

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 661

Expressing support for the designation of September 2018 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of September 2018 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD 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;

Whereas SCD causes episodes of considerable pain in the arms, legs, chest, and abdomen of an individual;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

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

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 African-Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD is often severely limited;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help patients with SCD; and

Whereas September 2018 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including

early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell
3 Disease Awareness Month; and

4 (2) encourages the people of the United States
5 to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities
6 during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise
7 public awareness of preventative care programs,
8 treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from
9 sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle
10 cell disease,
11 cell disease.

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