



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 82

October 6, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives SHELTON, BOWEN, L. MYERS, STUBBS, DRAKE, BEHNKE, STEFFEN, ANDRACA, BALDEH, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, DITTRICH, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, B. MEYERS, MILROY, MOORE OMOKUNDE, NEUBAUER, PENTERMAN, S. RODRIGUEZ, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SNYDER, SPIROS, SPREITZER, SUBECK, VINING and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators JOHNSON, AGARD, BEWLEY, LARSON and ROYS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** recognizing September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, more than 100,000 people in the United States and approximately
3 800 Wisconsinites are battling sickle cell disease; and

4 Whereas sickle cell disease almost exclusively affects communities of color,
5 affecting 1 in 365 newborn African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn
6 Hispanic American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean,
7 Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin; and

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

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

12 Whereas, sickle cell disease is an inherited, debilitating red blood cell disorder
13 in which red blood cells are abnormally shaped, which restricts the flow in blood
14 vessels and limits oxygen delivery to the body's tissues; and

1 Whereas, sickle cell disease often result in bouts of severe pain, anemia, stroke,
2 organ damage, and early death; and

3 Whereas, as the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States,
4 sickle cell disease is passed on to children from parents through genes; and

5 Whereas, sickle cell disease patients often experience significant barriers and
6 discrimination when seeking and accessing lifesaving treatments; and

7 Whereas, since the 1970s, there have been limited advances in the care and
8 treatment of the disease. With no universal cure for sickle cell disease, many patients
9 rely on frequent blood transfusions to manage their symptoms. Many of these
10 transfusions require up to 10 units of blood every month, which requires up to 20
11 donors for one patient; and

12 Whereas, blood centers operating in the state of Wisconsin, including American
13 Red Cross, Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin, The Community Blood Center,
14 Rock River Valley Blood Center, and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, play a critical
15 role in the treatment of sickle cell disease by supplying lifesaving blood for
16 transfusions; and

17 Whereas, Wisconsin health care providers at organizations such as Froedtert
18 and the Medical College of Wisconsin Froedtert Hospital, Children's Hospital of
19 Wisconsin, and Versiti provide world-class care to sickle cell patients across the
20 state; and

21 Whereas, Wisconsin researchers at organizations such as the Medical College
22 of Wisconsin, Marquette University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison
23 conduct research on treatments and psychosocial interventions to ease the burden
24 of sickle cell disease on those affected; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin representatives of professional organizations such as the
2 American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the International Association of Sick
3 Cell Nurses and Professional Associates (IASCNAPA) work to improve the outcomes
4 for individuals living with sickle cell disease through advocacy, care, education, and
5 research; and

6 Whereas, the recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month as well as
7 health care delivery services for individuals living with sickle cell disease can
8 support the transition for adolescents from pediatric to adult health care to improve
9 patient health outcomes and save lives; and

10 Whereas, lack of preventative research investment and funding results in a
11 lack of both short- and long-term sickle cell patient outcomes in overall health and
12 well-being; now, therefore, be it

13 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
14 Wisconsin Legislature join in recognizing September as National Sickle Cell
15 Awareness Month; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin Legislature encourage the
17 people of Wisconsin to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during
18 National Sickle Cell Awareness Month to raise public awareness of preventative care
19 programs, treatments, and other patient services for those living with sickle cell
20 disease.

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(END)