

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 52

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), FUNDERBURK, PACE, CHAPPELLE-NADAL, CARTER, NASHEED, JONES (63), MORRIS, BROWN (50), HUGHES, RUCKER, CURLS, LeBLANC, WEBB, HOSKINS (80), YAEGER, OXFORD, HODGES AND ATKINS (Co-sponsors).

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Whereas, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin; and

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Whereas, normal red blood cells contain hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin S and hemoglobin C are abnormal types of hemoglobin; and

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Whereas, red blood cells containing mostly hemoglobin S do not live as long as normal red blood cells and have difficulty passing through the body's small vessels. These hemoglobin S red blood cells can block small blood vessels, resulting in tissue damage due to less blood reaching that portion of the body; and

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Whereas, sickle cell trait is an inherited condition in which both hemoglobin A and S are produced in the red blood cells, always more A than S. Sickle cell trait is not a type of sickle cell disease; and

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Whereas, sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents in much the same way as blood type, hair color and texture, eye color and other physical traits. The types of hemoglobin a person makes in the red blood cells depend upon what hemoglobin genes the person inherits from his or her parents; and

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Whereas, since sickle cell conditions are inherited from parents, it is important for people to be aware if they are a carrier before having children; and

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24 **Whereas**, more than 80,000 people in the United States have sickle cell disease,
25 affecting mostly persons of African heritage according to the National Institute of Health.
26 Currently, there is no universal cure for sickle cell disease; and

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28 **Whereas**, sickle cell disease results in a shortened life expectancy, with the average
29 life expectancy being 42 years for men and 48 years for women; and

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31 **Whereas**, based on the population of 5 million in the State of Missouri, 600,000
32 are African American. 1 out of 400 suffers with sickle cell conditions and 1 out of 12 has the
33 sickle cell trait; and

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35 **Whereas**, with these estimated numbers, there are approximately 1,500 individuals
36 with sickle cell conditions and 50,000 individuals with sickle cell trait in the State of Missouri;
37 and

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39 **Whereas**, approximately 700 children, adolescents, and young adults with sickle
40 cell disease reside in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. However, less than 25% of this sickle cell
41 population will graduate from high school or seek higher education; and

42 **Whereas**, health maintenance for persons with sickle cell disease starts with early
43 diagnosis, preferably when a newborn; and

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45 **Whereas**, treatment of complications often includes antibiotics, pain management,
46 intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, and surgery in combination with psychosocial support;
47 and

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49 **Whereas**, there are promising new treatments being developed which can prevent
50 red blood cells from sickling without causing harm to other parts of the body, reduce the
51 frequency of severe pain, acute chest syndrome, and the need for blood transfusions, and provide
52 options to eliminate iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusions; and

53 **Whereas**, public awareness about sickle cell trait and disease and the numerous
54 programs and screening available is vital to reduce to pervasiveness of sickle cell conditions:
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56 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
58 concurring therein, hereby designate the week of May 9 - 15, 2010, as "Sickle Cell Awareness
59 Week" in Missouri; and
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61 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly encourages and urges all
62 citizens of this state to participate in activities during Sickle Cell Awareness Week to address
63 the pervasiveness of sickle cell trait and disease and the need to increase public awareness of the
64 available programs and screenings.

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