

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MURRAY.

1653H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to sickle cell awareness month.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is a group of genetic red blood cell disorders that
3 include sickle cell anemia - a condition in which the red blood cells become hard and sticky
4 and take on a curved shape, like a sickle, making it hard for them to move through the
5 bloodstream which causes damage to the blood vessels resulting in complications such as
6 lung, spleen, kidney, or liver damage, and stroke which leads to severe pain and disability;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, sickle cell disease is the most common hereditary hematologic disorder
9 in the world, which occurs in individuals who are born with two sickle cell genes, each
10 inherited from one parent. This affects approximately 100,000 Americans; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, 2.5 million Americans or one out of every 12 African Americans and
13 one out of every 100 Latinos in the United States have only one sickle cell gene that is called
14 “sickle cell trait”, and unlike most people with sickle cell disease, people who have sickle cell
15 trait may never know they have it and can live their entire lives without complications from it;
16 and

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18 **WHEREAS**, people with sickle cell trait should be aware of their condition for family
19 planning purposes because they can pass the gene onto their children. If both parents have
20 sickle cell trait, there is a greater chance that one or more of their children will be born with
21 sickle cell disease; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri provides newborn screening to all children born in
24 the state since 1989, which includes tests for sickle cell disease and trait, and this has reduced
25 the death rate for children born with sickle cell disease due to earlier interventions; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, there is currently only one FDA approved drug for sickle cell disease
28 because developing new medicines and other treatment options is a complex process that
29 involves clinical trials to explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe and
30 effective; and

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

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

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

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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages all citizens
45 of this state to participate in appropriate events and activities to raise awareness about the
46 pervasiveness of the sickle cell trait and available programs and screenings; and

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
49 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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