

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.167

Reps. Neeley, Allor, Crawford, Garza, Hood, Liberati, Love, Sabo, Sowerby and Wittenberg offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 22-28, 2019, as Sickle Cell
2 Disease Awareness Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and

4 Whereas, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most common
5 inherited blood disorders affecting approximately 100,000 children
6 and adults in the nation. One in 365 African Americans and 1 in
7 16,300 Hispanics have sickle cell disease; and

8 Whereas, There are more than 2,800 patients with sickle cell
9 disease in Michigan; and

10 Whereas, Sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disease



Sickle Cell Awareness Week

(House)

1 involving multicellular adhesion between red blood cells, white
2 blood cells, platelets, and endothelial cells, resulting in vaso-
3 occlusive crises (VOCs); and

4 Whereas, VOCs are the hallmark of sickle cell disease. These
5 recurrent episodes induce severe pain, decrease quality of life,
6 can cause life-threatening complications, including stroke, and are
7 the primary cause of hospitalizations in sickle cell disease, and
8 are associated with increased mortality; and

9 Whereas, VOC is the number one reason that patients with SCD
10 visit the emergency room or are hospitalized; and

11 Whereas, The estimated annual medical costs for SCD exceed
12 \$1.1 billion in the United States. Eighty percent of overall
13 treatment costs are attributable to inpatient costs and \$356
14 million in estimated annual costs for emergency room visits; and

15 Whereas, High Medicaid costs stem from "super utilizers",
16 patients with more than four hospital visits per year. SCD was the
17 fifth most common diagnosis among Medicaid "super utilizers"; and

18 Whereas, Access to care may be challenging for patients with
19 sickle cell disease. Due to a lack of physicians experienced in
20 treating sickle cell disease, many young adults transitioning from
21 pediatric care seek treatment in emergency settings; and

22 Whereas, Only two medications have been approved to treat
23 complications of SCD and more needs to be done to improve the
24 quality of care for patients with SCD; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
26 this legislative body declare September 22-28, 2019, as Sickle Cell
27 Disease Awareness Week in the state of Michigan. We urge increased
28 awareness to the problems caused by sickle cell disease.