

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.167

Rep. Neeley 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  
11 involving multicellular adhesion between red blood cells, white



Sickle Cell Awareness Week

(House)

1 blood cells, platelets, and endothelial cells, resulting in vaso-  
2 occlusive crises (VOCs); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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