

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 861

Expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas, approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

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

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

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2024 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell
3 Disease Awareness Month; and

4 (2) encourages the people of the United States
5 to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities
6 during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise
7 public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative
8 care programs, treatments, and other patient serv-
9 ices for those suffering from sickle cell disease, com-

- 1 plications from sickle cell disease, and conditions re-
- 2 lated to sickle cell disease.

