

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.280

Reps. Peterson, Brenda Carter, Bolden, Cynthia Johnson, Yancey, Garrett, Rabhi and Love offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare June 19, 2020, as World Sickle Cell  
2 Awareness Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, June 19th has been officially designated as World  
4 Sickle Cell Awareness Day by the Sickle Cell Disease Association of  
5 America; and

6       Whereas, The international awareness day is observed annually  
7 with the goal to increase public knowledge and an understanding of  
8 sickle cell disease and the challenges experienced by patients and  
9 their families and caregivers; and

10       Whereas, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is one of the most common  
11 inherited blood disorders affecting approximately 100,000 children



1 and adults in the nation. One in 365 African Americans and 1 in  
2 16,300 Hispanics have sickle cell disease; and

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

5       Whereas, Sickle cell disease is a complex genetic disease  
6 involving multicellular adhesion between red blood cells, white  
7 blood cells, platelets, and endothelial cells, resulting in vaso-  
8 occlusive crises (VOCs); and

9       Whereas, VOCs are the hallmark of sickle cell disease. These  
10 recurrent episodes induce severe pain, decrease quality of life,  
11 can cause life-threatening complications, including stroke, and are  
12 the primary cause of hospitalizations in sickle cell disease, and  
13 are associated with increased mortality; and

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

16       Whereas, The estimated annual medical costs for SCD exceed  
17 \$1.1 billion in the United States. Eighty percent of overall  
18 treatment costs are attributable to inpatient costs and \$356  
19 million in estimated annual costs for emergency room visits; and

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

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

27       Whereas, Sickle cell was medically recognized in 1910, but the  
28 first disease-modifying treatment was not approved for use until  
29 1998 and only three additional treatments have been approved in the

1 last four years, two of those in late 2019; and

2       Whereas, More needs to be done to improve the quality of care  
3 for patients with SCD; now, therefore, be it

4       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
5 this legislative body declare June 19, 2020, as World Sickle Cell  
6 Disease Awareness Day in the state of Michigan. We urge increased  
7 awareness to the problems caused by sickle cell disease.