

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

Senator Santana offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the United States Congress to increase  
2 funding for sickle cell disease research.

3       Whereas, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a disabling inherited  
4 blood disorder that causes the production of abnormally shaped  
5 (sickled) red blood cells that can stick together and block the  
6 flow of blood and oxygen. SCD leads to severe medical problems,  
7 including unpredictable episodes of excruciating pain, organ  
8 damage, anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, stroke, and  
9 decreased life span; and

10       Whereas, SCD poses a serious threat to public health. SCD  
11 affects approximately 100,000 individuals in the United States,  
12 including 1,000 babies born each year. The disease  
13 disproportionately impacts people of African, Middle Eastern, and

1 South American descent. In 2016, there were approximately 134,000  
2 hospital inpatient stays and nearly 250,000 emergency department  
3 visits related to SCD, both leading to increased medical costs; and

4 Whereas, There is no universal cure for SCD. Stem cell  
5 transplantation is currently the only cure, and it is not  
6 necessarily appropriate for all SCD patients. There have been  
7 advancements in treating the complications of SCD, but more  
8 research is needed to study emerging treatments, including  
9 therapies to address the underlying cause of the disease; and

10 Whereas, SCD research is underfunded compared to other rare  
11 inherited diseases, such as cystic fibrosis. Additional funding for  
12 SCD research is imperative to identify new treatments and cures to  
13 help patients with SCD and address the public health risks posed by  
14 the disease; now, therefore, be it

15 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States  
16 Congress to increase funding for sickle cell disease research; and  
17 be it further

18 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
19 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
20 States House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan  
21 congressional delegation.