

State of Misconsin 2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

## **2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 82**

October 6, 2021 – Introduced by Representatives Shelton, Bowen, L. Myers, Stubbs, Drake, Behnke, Steffen, Andraca, Baldeh, Cabral-Guevara, Conley, Considine, Dittrich, Hebl, Hesselbein, B. Meyers, Milroy, Moore Omokunde, Neubauer, Penterman, S. Rodriguez, Shankland, Sinicki, Snyder, Spiros, Spreitzer, Subeck, Vining and Vruwink, cosponsored by Senators Johnson, Agard, Bewley, Larson and Roys. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: recognizing September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month.
<b>2</b>	Whereas, more than 100,000 people in the United States and approximately
3	800 Wisconsinites are battling sickle cell disease; and
4	Whereas sickle cell disease almost exclusively affects communities of color,
5	affecting 1 in 365 newborn African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn
6	Hispanic American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean,
7	Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin; and
8	Whereas, more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle
9	cell trait, and 1 in 13 African Americans carries the trait; and
10	Whereas, there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the
11	sickle cell trait will have the disease; and
12	Whereas, sickle cell disease is an inherited, debilitating red blood cell disorder
13	in which red blood cells are abnormally shaped, which restricts the flow in blood
14	vessels and limits oxygen delivery to the body's tissues; and

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1	Whereas, sickle cell disease often result in bouts of severe pain, anemia, stroke,
2	organ damage, and early death; and
3	Whereas, as the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States,
4	sickle cell disease is passed on to children from parents through genes; and
5	Whereas, sickle cell disease patients often experience significant barriers and
6	discrimination when seeking and accessing lifesaving treatments; and
7	Whereas, since the 1970s, there have been limited advances in the care and
8	treatment of the disease. With no universal cure for sickle cell disease, many patients
9	rely on frequent blood transfusions to manage their symptoms. Many of these
10	transfusions require up to 10 units of blood every month, which requires up to 20
11	donors for one patient; and
12	Whereas, blood centers operating in the state of Wisconsin, including American
13	Red Cross, Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin, The Community Blood Center,
14	Rock River Valley Blood Center, and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, play a critical
15	role in the treatment of sickle cell disease by supplying lifesaving blood for
16	transfusions; and
17	Whereas, Wisconsin health care providers at organizations such as Froedtert
18	and the Medical College of Wisconsin Froedtert Hospital, Children's Hospital of
19	Wisconsin, and Versiti provide world-class care to sickle cell patients across the
20	state; and
21	Whereas, Wisconsin researchers at organizations such as the Medical College
22	of Wisconsin, Marquette University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison
23	conduct research on treatments and psychosocial interventions to ease the burden
24	of sickle cell disease on those affected; and

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1	Whereas, Wisconsin representatives of professional organizations such as the
2	American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the International Association of Sickle
3	Cell Nurses and Professional Associates (IASCNAPA) work to improve the outcomes
4	for individuals living with sickle cell disease through advocacy, care, education, and
5	research; and
6	Whereas, the recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month as well as
7	health care delivery services for individuals living with sickle cell disease can
8	support the transition for adolescents from pediatric to adult health care to improve
9	patient health outcomes and save lives; and
10	Whereas, lack of preventative research investment and funding results in a
11	lack of both short- and long-term sickle cell patient outcomes in overall health and
12	well-being; now, therefore, be it
13	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
14	Wisconsin Legislature join in recognizing September as National Sickle Cell
15	Awareness Month; and, be it further
16	<b>Resolved, That</b> the members of the Wisconsin Legislature encourage the
17	people of Wisconsin to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during
18	National Sickle Cell Awareness Month to raise public awareness of preventative care
19	programs, treatments, and other patient services for those living with sickle cell
20	disease.
21	(END)