

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 538

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that communities should establish multidisciplinary team approaches to treat children who suffer from sickle cell disease.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1994

Mr. CRAMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## **RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that communities should establish multidisciplinary team approaches to treat children who suffer from sickle cell disease.

Whereas it is estimated that more than 250,000 babies are born worldwide with sickle cell anemia, a form of sickle cell disease which causes red blood cells to elongate and clog arteries;

Whereas sickle cell disease is found in people of African, Mediterranean, Indian, and Middle Eastern heritage;

Whereas, in the United States, sickle cell disease is most commonly observed in blacks and Hispanics from the Caribbean, Central America, and parts of South America;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 400 African American newborns is afflicted with sickle cell anemia at birth;

Whereas the pain associated with a sickle-cell-induced clot can mimic symptoms of several other diseases, making sickle cell disease difficult to diagnose;

Whereas the recurrent and unpredictable nature of sickle cell disease can adversely affect both school and work attendance and may reduce a patient's sense of self-esteem;

Whereas there still exists a need to improve the quality of life for children who suffer from sickle cell disease, notwithstanding that the life expectancy of patients with sickle cell disease has improved considerably since 1960; and

Whereas multidisciplinary team approaches have proven successful in treating children with sickle cell disease: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) communities should establish multidisci-  
4       plinary team approaches to treat effectively children  
5       with sickle cell disease; and

6               (2) such approaches should incorporate the  
7       early administration of prophylactic penicillin to in-  
8       fants with sickle cell anemia, patient enrichment  
9       programs, educational programs, counseling pro-  
10      grams for children and their families, and screening  
11      programs.

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