

HR 8029

2026

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 19, 2026, as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease refers to a group of inherited disorders that affect red blood cells, and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and that do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells, which leads to anemia, and

WHEREAS, the sickle cells also get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, resulting in vaso-occlusive crises, which can cause pain and organ damage, and

WHEREAS, one common type of sickle cell disease is sickle cell anemia, in which individuals with the disease are born with two sickle cell genes, each inherited from one parent, and

WHEREAS, an individual with only one sickle cell gene has a "sickle cell trait," which occurs in about 1 out of every 12 African Americans and 1 out of every 100 Hispanic Americans, and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans, and occurs among about 1 in every 365 Black or African-American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births, and

HR 8029

2026

25        WHEREAS, more than 8,000 Floridians have sickle cell  
26 disease, and

27        WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health is working on  
28 innovative genetic therapies that could someday cure sickle cell  
29 disease, and

30        WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has  
31 granted orphan drug designation to sickle cell therapies a  
32 designation that provides incentives and encourages the  
33 development of therapies for rare diseases, and

34        WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that  
35 can affect any organ, including the kidneys, lungs, and spleen,  
36 and research indicates that patients experience many severe  
37 complications, including stroke, infections, and pulmonary  
38 embolism, and have a shorter life expectancy than the general  
39 population, and

40        WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises are a common, painful  
41 complication of sickle cell disease in adolescents and adults  
42 which may occur several times a year; and these recurrent  
43 episodes induce severe pain, decrease quality of life, cause  
44 life-threatening complications such as stroke, and are  
45 associated with increased mortality, and

46        WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises can cause intense pain that  
47 lasts anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks, and

HR 8029

2026

48        WHEREAS, sickle cell disease can be a life-threatening  
49 condition leading to a 20 to 30-year reduction in life  
50 expectancy, and

51        WHEREAS, individuals living with sickle cell disease  
52 encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their  
53 quality of life, and these barriers include limitations in  
54 geographic access to comprehensive care, the varied use of  
55 effective treatments, lack of insurance, and the limited number  
56 of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage  
57 and treat sickle cell disease, and

58        WHEREAS, while there is no widely available cure for sickle  
59 cell disease, one-time gene therapies, including gene editing  
60 therapeutic approaches, are being developed and may offer  
61 potential cures for some patients, and

62        WHEREAS, curative therapies for sickle cell disease may  
63 offer substantial savings over the patient's lifetime by  
64 avoiding the cost of future health services, NOW, THEREFORE,

65  
66 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
67 Florida:

68  
69        That June 19, 2026, is recognized as "World Sickle Cell  
70 Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.