



Press Release from the

Office of Congressman Danny K. Davis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Reps. Davis, Burgess, Lee, and Owens Lead Bill to Designate September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month”

Washington, D.C. – September 7, 2022, Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL-07), Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX-26), Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-13), and Congressman Burgess Owens (R-UT-04), co-chairs of the Congressional Sickle Cell Disease Caucus, recognized the importance of addressing sickle cell disease by leading a bill to designate September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Since its discovery in 1910 over a century ago, Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) remains a mystery in its disease affects upon persons from African origins. The enactment of the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act of 1972 created important federal programs to address the need for disease awareness, research, and treatment, as well as counseling and screenings. Half a century later, medical advances are on the verge of a functional cell and gene therapy that will enable patients to live longer with a better quality of life devoid of vaso-occlusive crisis. Given the myriad of challenges faced by patients living with Sickle Cell and the 50th Anniversary of passage of the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act, the designation of September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month is a way of honoring those Warriors who fight daily for to defy medical odds to live a normal life and to reify the Congressional commitment to help those Warriors and their families.

“Sickle Cell is a disease that currently affects an estimated 100,000 Americans, with an additional 2 million carrying the trait,” **said Rep. Davis**. “Furthermore, it is a disease that disproportionately impacts the lives of African Americans more so than that of any other ethnic group in the United States. Better treatments and outcomes for patient’s affected by Sickle Cell Disease do not happen by chance. Rather, it comes as a product of the hard work and sacrifice by countless individuals across this great nation. Every day, progress continues to be made toward the advancement of more effective forms of medical care. I know that increased resources for research and clinical trials is the key to developing more effective medication options and a cure for sickle cell disease. As the co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Sickle Cell Disease Caucus, I remain committed to championing the fight for quality, health care that provides a cure for Sickle Cell Warriors and their families.”

“During my residency at Parkland Hospital, I cared for several patients with sickle cell disease and witnessed the devastating effect it can have,” **said Rep. Burgess**. “Sickle cell disease is incredibly painful, with symptoms including pain crises, fatigue, bacterial infections, and lung and heart injury. With nearly 100,000 individuals in the United States suffering from this disease, I have made it a priority to support innovation and help raise awareness. I am grateful

to join my friend, Congressman Danny Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and Congressman Burgess Owens in offering this resolution.”

“We must invest in research and awareness campaigns to ensure that we combat this sickle cell disease, especially in communities of color and those who are medically underserved," **said Rep. Lee.** "I am proud to join Reps. Davis, Burgess, and Owens to uplift the designation of September 2022 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" to call for increased education, research, treatments, and preventative care for the approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. and millions who carry the sick cell trait."

"1 in 13 Black babies in the U.S. are born with the sickle cell trait, and this life-altering disease impacts the lives of an estimated 100,000 Americans," **said Rep. Owens.** “To mark National Sickle Cell Disease Month, I am proud to join my colleagues on the Congressional Sickle Cell Disease Caucus to reaffirm our lifelong commitment to support patients, improve health outcomes, and develop a cure."

For more information on Sickle Cell Disease, visit the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America found [here](#).

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