

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 296

Calling for Sickle Cell Trait research.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 3, 2015

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. CONYERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Calling for Sickle Cell Trait research.

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States, affecting approximately 100,000 people in the United States;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 people in the United States have the Sickle Cell Trait and many are unaware of their status;

Whereas African-Americans (1 in 12) and Hispanic Americans (1 in 100) are most at risk for carrying the Sickle Cell Trait, and the trait has been found in persons of Greek, Italian, East Indian, Saudi Arabian, Asian, Syrian, Turkish, Cypriot, Sicilian, and Caucasian origin;

Whereas individuals who have Sickle Cell Trait have a 50-percent chance of passing on the abnormal sickle cell

gene to future offspring and 25-percent chance of having future children with Sickle Cell Disease if both parents have the trait;

Whereas individuals with Sickle Cell Trait have the same life expectancy as the general population, but are at risk for certain conditions including, blood in the urine, kidney cancer, complications with trauma to the eye, tissue death in the spleen at high altitudes, or may have a false positive A1C test;

Whereas according to a 2007 study in the American Journal of Medical Genetics, all States have been required to screen for Sickle Cell Disease/Trait since 2006, however, most States lack a protocol for disseminating results of trait status, with parents being notified only 37 percent of the time;

Whereas communication of a screening result consistent with Sickle Cell Trait should always be accompanied by appropriate counseling on the implications, provided by an individual with adequate training and understanding of the information;

Whereas the limited research on the communication of Sickle Cell Trait test results to patients demonstrates that there is a high prevalence of misleading information being communicated during counseling sessions for Sickle Cell Trait following newborn screening by clinicians;

Whereas no studies have examined whether information on Sickle Cell Trait test results are being accurately transmitted to an individual, whether by a family member or healthcare provider, prior to a person's reproductive years; and

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of ensuring that people in the United States can make informed decisions as a result of awareness of their Sickle Cell Trait status: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the ongoing challenges in ad-  
3       dressing health outcomes among people with Sickle  
4       Cell Trait and Sickle Cell Disease;

5               (2) encourages the medical community, in co-  
6       ordination with the State and Federal Government,  
7       to work to ensure that all individuals are made  
8       aware of their SCT status by developing a common  
9       strategy for dissemination of screening results, edu-  
10      cation, and counseling to parents and families in col-  
11      laboration with all 50 States' newborn screening  
12      programs;

13              (3) calls on the United States Department of  
14      Health and Human Services, in collaboration with  
15      experts, to develop a public awareness campaign re-  
16      garding the importance of knowing one's Sickle Cell  
17      Trait status for all racial and ethnic groups in the  
18      United States;

19              (4) calls on the United States Department of  
20      Health and Human Services to expand access for  
21      screening and appropriate counseling for carriers of  
22      Sickle Cell Trait; and

1           (5) commits to ensuring support for research  
2           that expands our understanding of the health out-  
3           comes and other implications of Sickle Cell Trait  
4           and the health outcomes associated with Sickle Cell  
5           Disease.

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