



Legislation Text

File #: 0249X-2019, **Version:** 1

To recognize September as Sickle Cell Month in the City of Columbus and to support the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association in their efforts to educate, advocate and support individuals and families affected by Sickle Cell Disease.

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects nearly 100,000 people in the United States; sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to form into a crescent shape, like a sickle; sickle cells live only 10-20 days instead of the normal 120 days that regular blood cells live; the damaged sickle cells may cause serious health problems, including restricted blood flow, tissue and organ damage, prolonged episodes of intense physical pain, stroke, blindness, vision problems, and an increased susceptibility to infection; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease is particularly common among those whose ancestors came from sub-Saharan Africa; Spanish-speaking regions in the Western Hemisphere (South America, the Caribbean, and Central America); Saudi Arabia; India; and Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Greece, and Italy; and

WHEREAS, one out of every three hundred and sixty-five African-American children is born with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association (OSCHA) was incorporated in 1977 and was originally established for the purpose of providing a payment mechanism for medically indigent adults with sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association is to provide education, advocacy and statewide support to individuals and families affected by Sickle Cell Disease; this is achieved by focusing on education, testing, counseling, providing referrals, support, and various advocacy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell Disease has been recognized as a global public health priority with international resolutions being passed by the African Union and UNESCO in 2005; the World Health Organization in 2006; and the United Nations in 2008, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

That this Council does hereby recognize September as Sickle Cell Month in the City of Columbus and be it further resolved that this Council supports the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association in their efforts to educate, advocate and support individuals and families affected by Sickle Cell Disease.