

**HJR8 INTRODUCED**



1 SBIW87-1  
2 By Representative Rogers  
3 RFD: RULES  
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23  
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4 HJR\_\_\_\_ TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2023 AS "CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE  
5 AWARENESS MONTH" IN ALABAMA IN ORDER TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR  
6 THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, SCREENING PROGRAMS, AND ACCESS TO  
7 CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SUFFER FROM CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE.

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9           WHEREAS, March is recognized as National Kidney  
10 Month, which makes this month an important time for raising  
11 public awareness and understanding about chronic kidney and  
12 rare kidney diseases; and

13           WHEREAS, more than one in seven, fifteen percent of  
14 adults in the United States , are estimated to have chronic  
15 kidney disease (CKD), and as many as nine in ten adults with  
16 CKD do not know they have CKD; and

17           WHEREAS, kidney disease disproportionately affects  
18 communities of color; African Americans are almost four  
19 times more likely, and Hispanics are 1.3 times more likely  
20 to have kidney failure compared to White Americans; and

21           WHEREAS, ninety percent of patients with CKD stages  
22 1-3 are undiagnosed, and less than three percent of Black  
23 patients believe that they are at high risk for CKD; and

24           WHEREAS, CKD, when diagnosed, is often in late stages  
25 of the disease and irreversible damage to the kidneys has  
26 already occurred; fifteen percent of people diagnosed with  
27 CKD are unaware of the cause of their disease; and

28           WHEREAS, recent scientific advancements have shown

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29 that some of the health disparities in CKD have a genetic  
30 basis; this genetic risk factor for CKD was discovered in  
31 2010, when scientists learned that people who inherit two  
32 variants of the Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) gene are at  
33 significantly increased risk of developing kidney disease;  
34 while everyone has the APOL1 gene, only people with African  
35 ancestry inherit certain genetic variants; and

36 WHEREAS, thirteen percent of African Americans carry  
37 two APOL1 risk variants, and estimates suggest that up to  
38 one in five people with two APOL1 risk variants will develop  
39 kidney disease; APOL1 mediated kidney disease causes high  
40 levels of protein in the urine, or proteinuria, and can lead  
41 to various symptoms, including swelling in the legs and  
42 feet, fatigue, and weight gain; and

43 WHEREAS, research has also shown that the course of  
44 kidney disease is more rapidly progressive in individuals  
45 with two APOL1 risk variants than in patients without them;  
46 and

47 WHEREAS, the disease may eventually lead to kidney  
48 failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant; and

49 WHEREAS, there are simple tests to diagnose chronic  
50 kidney disease, including blood and urine tests, and a  
51 genetic test exists to identify presence of APOL1 risk  
52 variants; and

53 WHEREAS, it is imperative to improve awareness,  
54 diagnosis, and treatment of CKD through community-based  
55 programs that address racial disparities in the awareness,  
56 diagnosis, and treatment of chronic kidney disease; now

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57 therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
59 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That March 2023 shall be  
60 recognized as "Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month" in  
61 Alabama in order to raise awareness for the need for  
62 research, screening programs, and access to care for  
63 individuals who are at risk of or suffer from chronic kidney  
64 disease.