

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is imperative to improve awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of CKD through community-based programs that address racial disparities in the awareness, 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.