SJR12

FVMLD5C-1

By Senator Chesteen

RFD:

First Read: 13-Feb-24

SJR___ RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY 2024 AS FANCONI ANEMIA AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Fanconi Anemia (FA) is a rare, inherited DNA repair disorder that affects bone marrow and many other parts of the body; people with FA have an increased risk of bone marrow failure, physical abnormalities, organ defects, and certain cancers; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that FA is a cancer-susceptibility disease caused by faulty DNA repair, and individuals with the disease have an extremely high risk of developing cancer at a young age; individuals with FA are hundreds of times more likely to develop cancers such as leukemia; head, neck, and oral cancers; gynecological cancers; and gastrointestinal cancers at a much earlier age than the general population; and

WHEREAS, Fanconi Anemia is very rare; it occurs in one in 160,000 individuals worldwide; most of the time, FA is diagnosed during childhood or young adulthood; it affects both males and females equally and is found in all ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 23 genes known to cause Fanconi Anemia, including the BRCA1 and BRCA2, which are better known as breast cancer susceptibility genes; the disease is primarily inherited in a recessive fashion,

requiring an individual to inherit two defective copies of the same FA gene; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Fanconi Anemia require specialized protocols and heavily rely on research and clinical trials; research has resulted in better outcomes and longer lives for those with FA, and there is now a growing population of adults living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, further Fanconi Anemia research will benefit both individuals with FA and the general public through better understanding the mechanisms of DNA repair and cancer development; it can lead to improved cancer preventatives, cancer treatments, and ultimately a cure for FA; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we declare the month of May 2024 as Fanconi Anemia Awareness Month in the State of Alabama and commend its observance to all residents.