



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia and sickle cell disease, used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders that affect red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and that do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells, which leads to anemia; and

WHEREAS, the sickle cells also get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, resulting in vaso-occlusive crises, which can cause pain and organ damage; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder where individuals with the disease are born with two sickle cell genes, each inherited from one parent; and

WHEREAS, an individual with only one sickle cell gene has a "sickle cell trait," which occurs in 1 out of every 13 African Americans and in 1 out of every 100 Latinos in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans, and occurs among about one in every 365 Black or African-American births and one out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births, and it is estimated that 2,500 African-Americans in Alabama have sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, while there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, one-time gene therapies, including gene editing therapeutic approaches, are being developed and may offer potential cures for some patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 2021, as

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month

in the state of Alabama.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 17th day of September 2021.*

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor