



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, "sickle cell anemia" and "sickle cell disease," used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells; and*

*WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder affecting approximately 100,000 Americans, including one in 365 African Americans, one in 16,300 Hispanic Americans and more than 5,000 Alabamians; and*

*WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that can affect any organ, including the kidneys, lungs and spleen. Research indicates that patients experience many severe complications. Complications include stroke, infections, pulmonary embolism and a shorter life expectancy; and*

*WHEREAS, vaso-occlusive crises are a common, painful complication of sickle cell disease, which may occur several times a year. Crises typically last several days and are the leading cause of hospitalizations due to severe pain and life-threatening complications, including stroke; and*

*WHEREAS, individuals living with sickle cell disease encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their quality of life, including limitations in access to care of new and innovative treatments, the varied use of effective treatments, the high reliance on emergency care and public health programs, the limited number of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage and treat sickle cell disease and the pervasive impact of stigma, bias and discrimination; 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 2022, as*

# *Sickle Cell 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2022.*

*Kay Ivey*

*Kay Ivey, Governor*