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A resolution by Supervisors Martin, Wasserman, Moore Omokunde, and Sebring, recognizing September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month, and educating the community about the need for research, preventive care programs, and complications related to Sickle Cell Disease, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that Sickle Cell disease (SCD), a genetic blood disorder passed from parents to children, affects more than 100,000 people in the United States (U.S.); and

WHEREAS, SCD is a hereditary genetic mutation that causes the body to produce red blood cells with an abnormal crescent shape, resulting in impeded blood flow and a shortage of healthy red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, one out of every 500 African Americans and 1 out of every 36,000 Hispanic Americans are born with SCD, as noted by the CDC, and approximately 3 million people have the Sickle Cell trait, as reported by Sickle Cell Disease Coalition (SCDC); and

WHEREAS, individuals with SCD often exhibit signs of the disease during their first year of life, usually around 5 months, and the disease worsens over time, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, symptoms range from mild to severe and include pain, infection, vision loss, leg ulcers, strokes, and other possible complications; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC the only cure to date for SCD is a bone marrow transplant or stem cell transplant, which is very risky, and has serious side effects, including death; and

WHEREAS, the SCDC estimates that the average health care costs for an adult with SCD is more than \$30,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, 2018 U.S. Senate Bill 2465 and U.S. House of Representatives Bill 2410 passed on February 26, 2018, and amended the Public Health Service Act (the Act) to reauthorize a SCD prevention and treatment program, and provide for SCD research, prevention, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Act seeks to improve access to SCD-related health care, improve health outcomes of people with SCD over their lifespan by promoting guidelines for SCD screening, prevention, and treatment options, including management of SCD; and

47 WHEREAS, the Act further encourages providing support to community-based
48 organizations, state and local health departments, and patients to conduct SCD
49 education and training; and
50

51 WHEREAS, the CDC predicts that as additional support becomes available for
52 SCD programs, more data can be tracked to determine how many people are living with
53 SCD in the U.S., how SCD affects their health, and how researchers can improve
54 medical treatments to extend and improve the lives of people with SCD; and
55

56 **WHEREAS, at this time, there is still no widely available or universal cure**
57 **for SCD, but researchers are currently working to identify new treatments, greater**
58 **public support remains an important tool in the fight against this debilitating**
59 **disorder, and SCD Awareness Month in September serves as an opportunity to**
60 **unite those living in Milwaukee County around the goal of ensuring that all people**
61 **with the condition are afforded the care that they need; and**
62

63 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
64 September 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-687 as amended
65 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,
66

67 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
68 hereby recognizes September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month; and
69

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board encourages the community to
71 actively engage in conversations with community-based organizations, health care
72 providers, and local health departments to increase public awareness about Sickle Cell
73 Disease (SCD) research, preventive care programs, and complications from SCD.
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78 S:\Committees\2019\Sept\HHN 09119\Resolutions\19-687 Amended Resolution recognizing September as Sickle Cell Disease
79 Awareness Month.docx