

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 1275:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Sickle Cell Anemia Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia is a lethal disease caused by a recessive gene in a carrier
3 parent; and
- 4 WHEREAS, children with sickle cell anemia may experience serious complications which
5 include fatigue, fever, difficulty breathing, excruciating pain, stroke, leg ulcers, and
6 premature death; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the disease causes damage to most organs including the spleen, kidney, and
8 liver which also makes sickle cell disease patients, especially young children, easily
9 overwhelmed by bacterial infections; and
- 10 WHEREAS, two carrier parents have a one in four chance of having a child with the disease;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, while African Americans have the highest incidence of sickle cell disease in the
13 U.S., Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Indian, Greek, and Caucasian persons may also carry the
14 sickle cell trait or have sickle cell disease; and
- 15 WHEREAS, there are currently 70,000 Americans with sickle cell disease and hundreds
16 more are diagnosed each year; and
- 17 WHEREAS, about 2 million Americans carry the sickle cell trait and about 1 in 12 African
18 Americans has the trait; and
- 19 WHEREAS, despite many attempted treatments for sickle cell anemia, there is currently no
20 universal cure for the disease; various approaches are being sought for preventing sickling
21 episodes as well as for the complications of sickle cell disease; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a tremendous need for educating people about this tragic disease and
2 especially the need for testing prior to pregnancy as an essential component of preventing
3 new cases of children with sickle cell anemia.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 there is created the House Sickle Cell Anemia Study Committee to be composed of four
6 members of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives
7 shall appoint the members of the committee and shall designate one of such members as
8 chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
10 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
11 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
12 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
13 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
14 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
15 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
16 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
17 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
18 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
19 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
20 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2008. The
21 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2008.