

House Resolution 963

By: Representative Frazier of the 126th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 29, 2020, as Sickle Cell Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is the most frequently diagnosed genetic disease among
3 newborns; and

4 WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Georgia and its Department of Public Health has
5 partnered with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc.; and

6 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc. was established 49 years ago to
7 engage, educate, and energize communities throughout the State of Georgia to improve the
8 quality of life for Georgians affected by sickle cell disease and has become the cornerstone
9 for testing, support, and advocacy related to sickle cell disease; and

10 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc. achieves its mission in partnership
11 with support groups and through the provision of vital services, education, and counseling
12 to more than 28,000 persons annually, including many who have sickle cell disease, an
13 inherited complex genetic blood disorder characterized by chronic anemia, episodes of
14 debilitating pain, and damage to vital organs; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of three states with the highest rate of individuals affected by the
16 disease (8,200), and the State of Georgia's Newborn Screening Program identifies
17 approximately 170 babies born yearly with a significant hemoglobinopathy; and

18 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc. continues to operate a state-donated
19 Mobile Health Unit, which has tested 300,000 individuals and sends teams of certified health
20 educators and certified community health workers throughout the State of Georgia,
21 providing care coordination, referrals to resources, education, and counseling to parents
22 whose newborns have abnormal hemoglobin; and

23 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-four Georgia census tracts with significant sickle cell
24 populations have been designated as medically underserved areas, and 90 census tracts have
25 the added distinction as health professional shortage areas, thus making even routine primary
26 care challenging, particularly for adults with sickle cell disease; and

27 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc. reports that far too many families
28 are driving over an hour one way to obtain needed care, often in a pain crisis; and

29 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc., in partnership with the state, has
30 successfully trained over 400 non specialty providers and launched pop-up clinics to expand
31 adult access to health care in Georgia; and

32 WHEREAS, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia Inc. hosts the state's most popular and
33 longest-running, medically supervised summer residential camp, Camp New Hope, for
34 children who have sickle cell disease; and

35 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia supports community based sickle cell programs through
36 its participation in, and affiliation with, organizations that seek to continue progress toward
37 better treatment and a cure for sickle cell disease.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body recognize January 29, 2020, as Sickle Cell Day in Georgia.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 public and the press.