

HJR173 INTRODUCED



1 HJR173
2 2AQHSKS-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 09-Apr-24



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HJR___RECOGNIZING THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH APRIL AS
APOL1-MEDIATED KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS DAY IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, in an effort to increase awareness,
promote research to improve treatment, and seek a cure, the
last Tuesday of each April is designated as APOL1-Mediated
Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the State of Alabama
should become informed and aware of AMKD and all other types
of kidney disease; and individuals from or with ancestry
from Western and Central Africa should be encouraged to
consider genetic testing for APOL1 gene mutations; and

WHEREAS, genetic factors, such as variants in the
apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) gene, can increase an individual's
risk for kidney disease; APOL1 genetic variants account for
much of the excess risk of chronic and end stage kidney
disease for persons from or with Western and Central African
ancestry; and

WHEREAS, APOL1 explains the disproportionate rate
of kidney disease in people of African ancestry; African
Americans make up 13 percent of the United States'
population, but account for 32 percent of all kidney failure
and 35 percent of all end stage kidney disease; in addition,
African Americans are four times more likely to develop
kidney failure than White Americans; and



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29 WHEREAS, it is estimated that if a patient has
30 variants of both copies of the APOL1 gene, there is a one in
31 five chance they will go on to develop kidney disease, and
32 an estimated 13 percent of Black Americans have variants in
33 both copies of the APOL1 gene; and

34 WHEREAS, an individual with AMKD may not have any
35 symptoms of kidney disease until their kidneys are close to
36 failing; when symptoms emerge, they include fatigue,
37 swelling in the legs and feet, and weight gain, among
38 others; and

39 WHEREAS, APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease Awareness
40 Day provides opportunities for Alabamians to become informed
41 and increases public awareness and understanding of this
42 rare kidney disease; more awareness could lead to early
43 diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable
44 populations and empower and educate those at risk on how
45 they can manage their diagnosis, treatment, and disease; and

46 WHEREAS, individuals who are found to have APOL1
47 genetic variants can reduce their risk for kidney failure by
48 meeting with their doctor regularly, eating a healthy diet,
49 taking all medications as prescribed, exercising for at
50 least 30 minutes a day, and not smoking or using tobacco;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, there are currently no approved
53 treatments that address the underlying cause of
54 APOL1-mediated FSGS, but clinical trials could provide an
55 opportunity for researchers to develop and test safe
56 treatments for APOL1-mediated kidney disease; now therefore,



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
58 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the last Tuesday of each
59 April is recognized as APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease
60 Awareness Day, and we encourage the cooperation and
61 participation of all Alabama citizens in the research for
62 effective treatment and a cure.