

## HJR198 INTRODUCED



1 HJR198  
2 JPI8JNF-1  
3 By Representative Datcher  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 03-Apr-25



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4 HJR\_\_\_RECOGNIZING THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH APRIL AS  
5 APOL1-MEDIATED KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS DAY IN ALABAMA.  
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7 WHEREAS, in an effort to increase awareness,  
8 promote research to improve treatment, and seek a cure, the  
9 last Tuesday of each April is designated as APOL1-Mediated  
10 Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, APOL1 explains the disproportionate rate  
23 of kidney disease in people of African ancestry; African  
24 Americans make up 13 percent of the United States'  
25 population, but account for 32 percent of all kidney failure  
26 and 35 percent of all end stage kidney disease; in addition,  
27 African Americans are four times more likely to develop  
28 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.