



HR0214

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused
3 by a viral infection; there are 5 Hepatitis viruses, designated
4 as types A, B, C, D, and E; the 5 types of Hepatitis can be
5 fatal and potentially lead to an outbreak, which can affect
6 others; and

7 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a serious liver disease that
8 results from the Hepatitis C virus; Hepatitis C has been called
9 a silent epidemic because most people with Hepatitis C do not
10 know they are infected; and

11 WHEREAS, While some people who become infected with
12 Hepatitis C are able to clear, or get rid of, the virus, most
13 people who are infected develop a chronic or lifelong
14 infection; and

15 WHEREAS, Over time, chronic Hepatitis C can lead to serious
16 liver problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver
17 failure, or liver cancer, however, many people can benefit from
18 available treatment options that can eliminate the virus from
19 the body and prevent further liver damage; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
21 Prevention, there were 1,229 reported cases of Hepatitis C and

1 an estimate of 16,500 actual cases of the virus in the United
2 States in 2011; in 2010, 16,627 deaths were reported as the
3 result of Hepatitis C, a number that is considered to be only a
4 fraction of deaths attributable in whole or part to chronic
5 Hepatitis C; and

6 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is considered to be the deadliest of
7 the 5 viruses and currently takes more lives in the United
8 States than HIV, AIDS, and all other types of Hepatitis; if
9 left untreated, Hepatitis C can lead to liver failure, liver
10 cancer, or cirrhosis; and

11 WHEREAS, Many people with chronic Hepatitis C do not have
12 symptoms and do not know they are infected; people with chronic
13 Hepatitis C can live for decades without symptoms or feeling
14 sick; and

15 WHEREAS, Those born between 1945 and 1965 are
16 disproportionately affected by Hepatitis C and the Centers for
17 Disease Control and Prevention recommends that these
18 individuals get a one-time test regardless of whether or not
19 they have any symptoms; other groups that are
20 disproportionately impacted by Hepatitis C include African
21 Americans, those undergoing dialysis, hemophiliacs, the
22 homeless, the incarcerated, those who received a blood
23 transfusion before 1992, and Vietnam veterans; new treatments

1 have become available to patients within the last year and cure
2 rates have increased exponentially; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois State Representative Michael McAuliffe
4 (R-Chicago) has personally experienced the Hepatitis virus in
5 his family and has been an outspoken advocate for encouraging
6 individuals, especially veterans, to be tested for the virus;
7 he, along with the members of this body, want to ensure that
8 the people of Illinois understand the dangers of Hepatitis and
9 the urgent need to raise awareness in order to prevent the
10 spread of Hepatitis C before it takes any more lives;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 designate May of 2015 as "Hepatitis C Awareness Month" in the
15 State of Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the Governor of Illinois, all other constitutional
18 officers, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly in
19 order to raise awareness of Hepatitis C.