**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MARCH 2020 AS BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO INCREASE RECOGNITION OF THESE ILLNESSES.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are proud to commemorate March 2020 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, this designation will formalize and expand upon President Ronald Reagan’s designation of March 1986 as “Hemophilia Awareness Month”; and

Whereas, the federal Department of Health and Human Services has designated March as National Bleeding Disorders Month; and

Whereas, these bleeding disorders, which share the inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma, or menstruation and can lead to significant morbidity, even fatality, if not treated effectively; and

Whereas, unfortunately, many individuals with hemophilia became infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

Whereas, this March designation will generate greater recognition and understanding of not only hemophilia, but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease, which alone impacts an estimated one percent of the population in the United States, more than 3.2 million individuals; and

Whereas, Hemophilia of South Carolina is a not‑for‑profit organization founded in 1973 to support the South Carolina bleeding disorders community; and

Whereas, this Bleeding Disorders Awareness month will foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among individuals with inheritable bleeding disorders; and

Whereas, this month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey to the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures, and disability. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly of South Carolina, by this resolution, declare March 2020 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in the State of South Carolina and increase recognition of these illnesses.

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