

HJR173 ENROLLED



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



HJR173 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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

5

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

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

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

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



HJR173 Enrolled

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

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

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

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

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



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



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 16-Apr-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

25-Apr-24

Adopted