



SJ0046

LRB097 20181 RPM 65590 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, An estimated 4,000,000 individuals in the United
3 States are infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), and 75%
4 of these individuals are unaware they are infected; and

5 WHEREAS, HCV is the leading cause of liver cancer and liver
6 failure and the most common reason for liver transplantation in
7 the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, HCV is 4 times more prevalent than HIV/AIDS and
9 led to more than 15,000 deaths in the United States in 2007;
10 350,000 people die each year due to hepatitis C-related liver
11 disease worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, Two of every 3 people with chronic hepatitis C in
13 this country are baby boomers born between 1945 and 1965 who
14 were infected decades ago; and

15 WHEREAS, HCV disproportionately affects minorities;
16 African Americans, who make up 14% of the population, account
17 for 22% of HCV cases in the U.S.; and

18 WHEREAS, The Hispanic community also bears a heavier
19 burden; chronic HCV is more aggressive and carries a higher
20 risk of cirrhosis for Hispanics than for any other ethnic

1 group; and

2 WHEREAS, The costs for HCV patients are projected to more
3 than double over the next 20 years, from \$30,000,000,000 to
4 \$85,000,000,000 per year; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7 CONCURRING HEREIN, that, due to the prevalence and highly
8 communicable nature of hepatitis, we urge the 112th Congress of
9 the United States to enact the federal Viral Hepatitis Testing
10 Act of 2011 in order to:

11 (1) authorize testing programs with the goal of making
12 75% of infected people aware of their status by 2016;

13 (2) authorize the development and distribution of
14 public information about viral hepatitis detection and the
15 control of infections;

16 (3) authorize better coordination of medical treatment
17 and counseling so that infected people have access to the
18 best services; and

19 (4) improve the education, training, and skills of
20 health professionals in the detection and control of viral
21 hepatitis infections; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
23 delivered to members of the Illinois congressional delegation.