



HR0760

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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, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
8 Prevention, there were 1,398 reported cases of hepatitis A in  
9 the United States in 2011; it is believed that the actual  
10 number of cases to be 2,700; in 2010, there were 95 certified  
11 deaths in the United States as a result of hepatitis A;  
12 hepatitis A impacts individuals who live in poor sanitary  
13 conditions; vaccines are available for the prevention and  
14 treatment of hepatitis A; and

15           WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
16 Prevention, there were 2,890 reported cases of hepatitis B and  
17 an estimated 18,800 actual cases of the virus in 2011; in 2010,  
18 1,792 deaths in the United States were a result of hepatitis B;  
19 hepatitis B is transmitted through infective blood, semen, and  
20 other bodily fluids; the virus can be transmitted from a mother  
21 to her child during pregnancy and to health care workers  
22 dealing with blood transfusions; a vaccine is available for  
23 individuals to prevent hepatitis B; and

1           WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
2           Prevention, there were 1,229 reported cases of Hepatitis C and  
3           an estimate of 16,500 actual cases of the virus in the United  
4           States in 2011; in 2010, 16,627 deaths were reported as the  
5           result of hepatitis C, a number that is considered to be only a  
6           fraction of deaths attributable in whole or part to chronic  
7           hepatitis C; hepatitis C is considered to be the deadliest of  
8           the 5 viruses and currently takes more lives in the United  
9           States than HIV, AIDS, and all other types of hepatitis; if  
10          left untreated, hepatitis C can lead to liver failure, liver  
11          cancer, or cirrhosis; those born between 1945 and 1965 are  
12          disproportionately affected by hepatitis C and the Centers for  
13          Disease Control and Prevention recommends that they get a  
14          one-time test regardless of whether or not they have any  
15          symptoms; other groups that are disproportionately impacted by  
16          hepatitis C include African Americans, those undergoing  
17          dialysis, hemophiliacs, the homeless, the incarcerated, those  
18          who received a blood transfusion before 1992, and Vietnam  
19          veterans; and

20          WHEREAS, Hepatitis D infections occur only in individuals  
21          who are infected with hepatitis B; the infections of both  
22          hepatitis B and D can result in a more serious disease and a  
23          worse outcome; vaccines are available to treat those infected  
24          with hepatitis D and prevent infections; and

1           WHEREAS, Hepatitis E impacts individuals through the  
2           contamination of food or water; it is predominately an issue in  
3           developing nations and is seen as an important health issue in  
4           developing nations; vaccines have been developed, but are not  
5           widely available; and

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

15          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16          NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17          we designate May of 2014 as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the  
18          State of Illinois; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20          delivered to the Governor of Illinois, all other constitutional  
21          officers, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly in  
22          order to raise awareness of hepatitis.