**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2022 AS “RARE KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, March is recognized as National Kidney Month, which makes this month an important opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding about rare kidney diseases, such as Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1)‑mediated kidney disease; and

Whereas, APOL1 genetic variants account for much of the excess risk of chronic and end‑stage kidney disease for persons of African ancestry, including people who identify as African American, Afro‑Caribbean, and Latinx; and

Whereas, APOL1 explains the disproportionate rate of kidney disease in people of African ancestry. African Americans make up 13% of the United States population, but they account for 32% of all kidney failure and 35% of all end‑stage kidney disease. In addition, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than white Americans; and

Whereas, APOL1‑mediated kidney disease is driven by genetic factors and is underdiagnosed; and

Whereas, symptoms of APOL1 do not present until kidney damage is advanced. APOL1 symptoms include fatigue, swelling in the legs and feet, weight gain, and other issues; and

Whereas, increasing public awareness and understanding of the genetic causes of rare kidney disease could lead to early diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable populations. Public awareness could also empower and educate those at risk on how they can manage kidney disease. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize March 2022 as “Rare Kidney Disease Awareness Month” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the organizers of Rare Kidney Disease Awareness Month.

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