

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 64

By: Haney of the Senate

and

Voskuhl of the House

A Concurrent Resolution designating May 1998 as "Hepatitis C Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma; urging the State Department of Health to heighten public awareness about Hepatitis C through increased public education; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, chronic Hepatitis C has been classified as the silent killer, where no recognizable signs or symptoms occur--until severe liver damage has occurred; and

WHEREAS, chronic Hepatitis C has been characterized by the World Health Organization as a disease of primary concern to humanity; and

WHEREAS, chronic Hepatitis C currently infects approximately 4.5 million Americans. There are 30,000 new infections each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this disease is considered such a public health threat, that the National Institutes of Health convened an international conference of health experts last year to issue guidelines for diagnosis, control and treatment of Hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a comprehensive plan to address this significant public health problem, beginning with the identification and notification of the hundreds of thousands of persons inadvertently exposed to Hepatitis C through blood transfusions; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a vaccine, emphasis must be placed on other means of disease prevention, including the education of health care workers and the general public about the threat of Hepatitis C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature designates May 1998 as "Hepatitis C Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature urges the State Department of Health to heighten public awareness about Hepatitis C through increased public education.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Department of Health.

Adopted by the Senate the 5th day of May, 1998.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 11th day of May,
1998.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives