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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing support for the designation of April 30 as “National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of April 30 as “National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day”.

Whereas up to 2.2 million individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and up to two-thirds of individuals with chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection status;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver transmitted via infected blood and other body fluids, including mother-to-child transmission and transmission through injection drug use;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individ-

uals on hemodialysis are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B represents one of the most common causes of liver cancer;

Whereas 1 in every 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic hepatitis B will develop liver cancer, cirrhosis, or liver failure, with liver cancer only having an 18 percent 5-year survival rate in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are currently available and infants and children have been routinely vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States;

Whereas the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 95 percent effective and was the first anticancer vaccine to be developed, is projected to prevent 310 million cases of hepatitis B worldwide from 1990 to 2020;

Whereas only 25 percent of adults are vaccinated against hepatitis B in the United States;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 20 percent nationwide in 2015, and there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States as a result of the opioid epidemic, with Maine reporting a 729 percent increase in acute hepatitis B infections from 2015 to 2017, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee reporting a 114 percent increase from 2009 to 2013, southeastern Massachusetts reporting a 78 percent increase in 2017, and

North Carolina reporting a 62 percent increase from 2012 to 2016;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV and 5 to 10 times more infectious than hepatitis C; and

Whereas there are significant opportunities to prevent new hepatitis B infections and subsequently reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis through efforts to increase adult hepatitis B vaccination and maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination, particularly within the setting of the opioid epidemic: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of April 30 as
3 “National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness
4 Day”;

5 (2) recognizes the importance of providing sup-
6 port for individuals to be tested for hepatitis B, vac-
7 inating those susceptible to hepatitis B, and linking
8 to appropriate care those diagnosed with hepatitis B;
9 and

10 (3) encourages a commitment to increasing
11 adult hepatitis B vaccination rates, maintaining
12 childhood hepatitis B vaccination rates, and pro-
13 moting provider and community awareness of adult
14 hepatitis B vaccination in order to reduce the num-
15 ber of new hepatitis B infections and hepatitis B-re-
16 lated deaths.