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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2022, 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, 2022, as “National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day”.

Whereas up to 2.4 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 through mother-to-child transmission and injection drug use;

Whereas hepatitis B is associated with significant disparities among communities of color (including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and African immigrants), sexual and

gender minority communities, and those affected by the opioid crisis;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals 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 having a 5-year-survival rate of only 18 percent in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are available;

Whereas in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States, infants and children have been routinely vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s;

Whereas all adults aged 19 to 59, and adults 60 and older with hepatitis B risk factors, are recommended to be vaccinated against hepatitis B;

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

Whereas only 30 percent of adults in the United States are vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 11 percent nationwide between 2014 and 2018;

Whereas as a result of the opioid epidemic, there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States, including—

- (1) a 489-percent increase in acute hepatitis B infections from 2015 to 2016 in Maine;
- (2) a reported 114-percent increase from 2009 to 2013 in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee;
- (3) a reported 78-percent increase in 2017 in southeastern Massachusetts; and
- (4) a reported 56-percent increase from 2014 to 2016 in North Carolina;

Whereas 36 percent of new hepatitis B cases are among people who inject drugs;

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, particularly within the setting of the opioid epidemic, to prevent new hepatitis B infections and thereby reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis through efforts to—

- (1) increase adult hepatitis B vaccination; and
- (2) maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

- 2               (1) supports the designation of “National Adult
- 3       Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day”;

1           (2) recognizes the importance of providing sup-  
2       port and encouragement—

3           (A) for all individuals to be tested for hep-  
4       atitis B;

5           (B) for individuals susceptible to infection  
6       to be vaccinated against hepatitis B; and

7           (C) for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis  
8       B to be linked to appropriate care; and

9           (3) in order to reduce the number of new hepa-  
10      titis B infections and hepatitis B-related deaths, en-  
11      courages a commitment to—

12           (A) increasing adult hepatitis B vaccina-  
13      tion rates;

14           (B) maintaining childhood hepatitis B vac-  
15      cination rates; and

16           (C) promoting provider and community  
17      awareness of adult hepatitis B vaccination.