

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN, MINIARD CULPEPPER, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.4554 “AN ACT TO
IMPROVE SICKLE CELL CARE”**

WHEREAS: Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder in which the red blood cells are deformed from a hemoglobin mutation that blocks blood flow. Over 100,000 people in the United States are impacted by this disease, and those with this condition suffer from chronic pain, infections, anemia, problems with vision and swelling of hands and feet, and long term complications include increased risk for heart disease, stroke, and organ failure; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 90% of those who suffer from Sickle Cell Disease are Black and Latino, and life expectancy for those who suffer this condition is 20 years shorter than the average expected; *and*

WHEREAS: In the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Bill H.1347 “An Act To Improve Sickle Cell Care” was introduced on January 14th, 2025 by Representative Bud L. Williams. On February 27, 2025, the Bill was referred to the Senate and a joint hearing was held on June 16, 2025. The Bill accompanied a new draft, H. 4554, which was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it stands today; *and*

WHEREAS: H.4554 aims to combat sickle cell disease through four different areas, including creating a steering committee in the Department of Public Health composed of experts, professionals, and the community; implementing a detection and education program; creating a registry to collect data to facilitate studies, improve treatment and follow up care; and requiring Medicaid managed organizations to tailor strategies for sickle cell patients so that they receive comprehensive care such as access to specialists and better access to medications; *and*

WHEREAS: The work of the steering committee includes creating educational materials, partnerships with hospitals/education institutes, and finding funding sources for Sickle Cell disease; and the work relating to detection and public education includes early screening and detection campaigns, community organizing grants, and health care professional training; *and*

WHEREAS: Here in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Sickle Cell Association (MSCA), formerly known as the Greater Boston Sickle Cell Disease Association, is a leading non-profit that focuses on spreading awareness on Sickle Cell Disease. Each year, MSCA organizes a 5k walk and run to support individuals and families, and their mission includes educating

patients and families through events and lectures, as well as providing programs and services to patients and families; *and*

WHEREAS: Communities of color experience health inequities that often lead to disproportionately worse health outcomes and life expectancy. The Boston City Council must do its part and support efforts such as H.4554, which addresses these issues. “An Act To Improve Sickle Cell Care” ensures equitable health care and voices to those who suffer from the disease; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council supports the passage of H.4554 “An Act To Improve Sickle Cell Care”, and urges prompt action in the passage of this legislation.

Filed on: June 24, 2026