

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 98-4719, by Representatives Backlund, Cody and Dunn

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 four million five hundred thousand Americans and there are thirty thousand new infections each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This disease is considered such a public health threat that the National Institute of Health convened an international conference of health experts in March of 1997, to issue guidelines for diagnosis, control, and treatment of Hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, The United States 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; and

WHEREAS, The American Liver Foundation is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing hepatitis and other liver and gall bladder diseases through research and education; and

WHEREAS, The American Liver Foundation has designated October as Hepatitis C Education Awareness Month in an effort to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of the liver and the effects of Hepatitis C;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of Washington recognize that October is Hepatitis C Education Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby honor and encourage the efforts of the American Liver Foundation and its volunteers in this state and nationwide in their efforts to provide vital services and outreach with regards to the prevention, treatment, and cure of Hepatitis C.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4719 adopted by the House of Representatives
March 12, 1998.

Timothy A. Martin, Chief Clerk