

**SENATE RESOLUTION  
1998-8719**

By Senators Wood and Spanel

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of Washington, That we designate the month of October as Hepatitis C Education Awareness Month urging public awareness on behalf of the Department of Health through increased public education during this month.

I, Mike O'Connell, Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 1998-8719,  
adopted by the Senate March 12, 1998.

MIKE O'CONNELL  
Secretary of the Senate