

.....  
(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.