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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16**

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled December 21, 2017

*Designating March, in 2019 and in each succeeding year, as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in Virginia.*

Patrons—Adams, D.M., Hope, Rodman and Tran

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, inherited bleeding disorders are exceedingly rare, but without proper treatment have the potential to be devastating to the health of affected individuals; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with inherited bleeding disorders share the inability to form a proper blood clot, which may lead to extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma, menstruation, or childbirth; these disorders are associated with significant morbidity and can be fatal if not treated effectively; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with hemophilia, a type of bleeding disorder, became infected with HIV and Hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has recognized the serious nature of untreated bleeding disorders by mandating the treatment of hemophilia by insurers of the Commonwealth's regulated plans; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of inherited bleeding disorders will help members of the public understand the scope of inherited bleeding disorders, including not only hemophilia, but also von Willebrand disease; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness will also increase engagement in the prevention and treatment of inheritable bleeding disorders to ensure that members of the bleeding disorder community do not face these disorders alone, as well as prevent unnecessary procedures and reduce the risk of disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate March, in 2019 and in each succeeding year, as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Board of Health so that members of the board may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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