



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

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Request: Cosponsor H.R. 6216/S. 3389, which direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to create a demonstration program in up to 10 states to improve access to comprehensive, high-quality, outpatient care for individuals enrolled in Medicaid with sickle cell disease.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited, lifelong disorder affecting nearly 100,000 Americans. Individuals with the disease produce abnormal hemoglobin which results in their red blood cells becoming rigid and sickle-shaped, causing them to block blood and complications, low quality of life, and increased costs to the healthcare system. Improving access to high-quality outpatient care will improve quality of life for individuals with SCD and reduce costs associated with visits to the emergency department (ED) and inpatient hospital stays.

The Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act directs CMS to create a demonstration program in up to 10 states to improve access to comprehensive, high-quality, outpatient and inpatient care. For more information, contact the American Society of Hematology at (202) 776-0544 or visit www.hematology.org/scd.

For additional information or to cosponsor the legislation in the Senate please contact

- Gloria Nunez in Senator Cory Booker's office at Gloria_Nunez@bookersenate.gov
- [sencorcons.org](http://www.sencorcons.org)

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) represents more than 18,000 physicians, researchers, and medical trainees dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases, including SCD. In 2015, ASH launched a transformative, patient-centric initiative to improve outcomes for individuals with SCD, both in the United States and globally, by bringing together stakeholders in the public and private sectors committed to significantly improving the state of SCD worldwide. Visit www.hematology.org/scd to learn more about ASH's efforts to make significant a difference in SCD access to care, research, and ultimately, cure.