

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 202

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the establishment of a Summer Emergency Blood Donor Month to encourage eligible donors in the United States to donate blood.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the establishment of a Summer Emergency Blood Donor Month to encourage eligible donors in the United States to donate blood.

Whereas every 3 seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion;

Whereas approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States;

Whereas donated blood is used for transfusions of platelets, red blood cells, and plasma;

Whereas between 5 and 8 pints of red blood cells and approximately 5 pints of platelets are needed for the average open-heart surgery;

Whereas people who have been in car accidents and suffered massive blood loss may require transfusions of 50 pints or more of red blood cells;

Whereas blood centers are often in short supply of type O and type B blood;

Whereas shortages of type O and type B blood are most acute during the summer and during traditional vacation periods during the winter;

Whereas blood shortages can result in canceled surgeries, emergency room closures, and even death;

Whereas the Southeastern United States was in short supply of blood for transfusions before being hit by tropical storm Allison and is now experiencing a blood shortage crisis;

Whereas other States are donating blood from their own fragile blood supplies to the States that were hit hardest by tropical storm Allison;

Whereas the State of New York is experiencing a blood shortage crisis;

Whereas eligible donors in the State of New York are less than half as likely as other eligible donors in the United States to donate blood;

Whereas due to higher rates of cancer and other factors, the demand for blood in New York is higher than in other States;

Whereas the State of New York and the entire United States would benefit from increased blood donation;

Whereas the establishment of a Summer Emergency Blood Donor Month would encourage eligible donors in the United States to donate blood; and

Whereas July 2001 would be an appropriate month to establish as Summer Emergency Blood Donor Month: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

3           (1) a Summer Emergency Blood Donor Month  
4       should be established to encourage eligible donors in  
5       the United States to donate blood; and

6           (2) the President should issue a proclamation  
7       calling on the people of the United States to observe  
8       such a month with appropriate programs and activities,  
9       including, in the case of eligible donors, the donation  
10      of blood.

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