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MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Charles Rochester Blood Clot Prevention and Treatment Act

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The severe health complications associated with blood clots and fatal pulmonary embolisms (PE) are among the most significant threats to public health in America. One American dies of a blood clot every six minutes and one in four PE victims die suddenly and without warning. Timely diagnosis of blood clots is crucial in preventing PE, but far too few Americans recognize the risk factors, understand the symptoms of blood clots, or are aware of available treatment options. Therefore, prioritizing patient education to enable early intervention will reduce deaths, diseases, and healthcare costs associated with blood clots.

Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) occurs when blood clots form in the legs, pelvis, or arms and pulmonary embolisms (PE) occur when blood clots travel to and obstruct the lungs. The CDC estimates that approximately 900,000 individuals suffer from DVT/PE annually, resulting in 100,000 deaths each year. However, the true extent of this crisis is unknown due to the lack of national data collection. This coupled with the lack of patient understanding of risk factors and symptoms emphasize the urgent need for informed policy changes now.

In 2008, US Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson issued a “Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE)” to catalyze widespread awareness of the risk factors and triggering events for developing DVT and PE. At the time, 300,000 Americans were afflicted every year, and more than 100,000 Americans were dying of blood clots. While the 2008 Call to Action spurred a national awakening, 15 years later, almost 100,000 Americans continue to die from this preventable disease each year.

Aside from the human toll, the economic impacts of blood clots are significant, with direct and indirect costs surpassing \$10 billion annually. This is why a proactive approach, centered on education, awareness, and data collection is so crucial. This bill would improve patient awareness of blood clot risks, improve surveillance, detection, and treatment of patients who may be at a higher risk of forming blood clots, and ultimately save lives.

Specifically, this bill would do the following:

- **Increase public awareness of blood clot signs and symptoms and educate health care providers and hospitals on the signs, symptoms and treatments of blood clots by requiring the CDC to conduct a nationwide public awareness campaign;**
- **Establish an advisory committee to provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of HHS regarding programs, policies, and research to promote the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms;**
- **Improve our understanding of who and how many Americans are impacted by blood clots by requiring the CDC to conduct a study on novel ways of detecting and monitoring blood clots at the national level.**

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