

By Senator Sullivan

22-225-01

1                                   Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_  
2           A resolution recognizing April 22-29, 2001, as  
3           "Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."  
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5           WHEREAS, government figures show that more than 1  
6 million children were victims of abuse and neglect in 1997,  
7 causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable  
8 citizens, and  
9           WHEREAS, of the children who are victims of abuse and  
10 neglect, more than three die each day in this country, and  
11           WHEREAS, the rate of child fatalities rose by 37  
12 percent between 1985 and 1997, and children who were 3 years  
13 old or younger accounted for 77 percent of the fatalities, and  
14           WHEREAS, the leading cause of death of abused children  
15 is head trauma, including the trauma known as Shaken Baby  
16 Syndrome, and  
17           WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, which results from a  
18 caregiver's losing control and shaking a baby, usually less  
19 than 1 year of age, and which can cause loss of vision, brain  
20 damage, paralysis, seizures, or death, is a totally  
21 preventable form of child abuse, and  
22           WHEREAS, an estimated 3,000 children are diagnosed with  
23 Shaken Baby Syndrome every year, and thousands more are  
24 misdiagnosed and undetected, and  
25           WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome often causes permanent,  
26 irreparable brain damage or death to an infant, and may result  
27 in more than \$1 million in medical costs for the care of a  
28 single disabled child during the first few years of life, and  
29           WHEREAS, the most effective way to end Shaken Baby  
30 Syndrome is by preventing such abuse, and it is clear that the  
31 minimal costs of educational and preventive programs may avert

1 enormous medical and disability costs and untold grief for  
2 many families, and

3 WHEREAS, prevention programs have been shown to raise  
4 awareness and provide critically important information about  
5 Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, daycare workers,  
6 child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health  
7 care professionals, and legal representatives, and

8 WHEREAS, prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome is  
9 supported by groups such as the Shaken Baby Alliance, an  
10 organization started by three mothers of children who had been  
11 diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome, and whose mission is to  
12 educate the general public and professionals about the  
13 syndrome and to increase support for victims and their  
14 families in the health care and criminal justice systems, and

15 WHEREAS, a year 2000 survey by Prevent Child Abuse  
16 America shows that half of all Americans believe that child  
17 abuse and neglect is the most important issue facing this  
18 country, compared to other public health issues, and

19 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate strongly supports efforts  
20 to protect children from abuse and neglect, NOW, THEREFORE,

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22 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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24 That the Florida Senate recognizes the week of April  
25 22-29, 2001, as "Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."  
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