

By Representative Betancourt

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House Resolution

A resolution designating the month of October
2001 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, every three hours, a woman dies of breast
cancer in Florida, and a total of 2,600 such deaths are
expected in the state during the year 2001, and

WHEREAS, the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women
in the United States each year, breast cancer is responsible
for the greatest number of cancer deaths among African
American women and is the second leading cause of such deaths
among Caucasian women, and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks third in the nation each year in
the number of new cases diagnosed and deaths reported from
this disease, and the American Cancer Society documented
11,844 new incidences of breast cancer in the state in 1999
and estimates that there will be 12,500 cases discovered
during 2001, and

WHEREAS, although any woman may be stricken, advancing
age has been found to be the greatest risk factor leading to
this disease, with 64 percent of all breast cancers occurring
in women 60 years of age or older, yet it is estimated that
almost one million of the state's women over the age of 40
have never had a mammogram, and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society advocates routine
clinical and mammography screening, beginning at age 40, as a
means of early detection through which survival rates for
breast cancer are greatly improved, and

WHEREAS, awareness programs, such as the American
Cancer Society's Tell-A-Friend-Tuesday program, are crucial to
alerting the women of Florida to the importance of early

1 detection and thus improving the chances of successful
2 treatment and cure of breast cancer, NOW, THEREFORE,
3
4 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
5 Florida:

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7 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
8 deliberations to designate the month of October 2001 as
9 "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," a time in which to stress to
10 the women of Florida the importance of routine clinical and
11 mammography screenings in the prevention and cure of breast
12 cancer.

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