

By Senator Klein

28-1869-02

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

2 A resolution commending the Palm Beach County  
3 Health Department for its dedicated service to  
4 the public during the anthrax crisis.

5  
6 WHEREAS, on October 4, 2001, the Palm Beach County  
7 Health Department announced that it was investigating a case  
8 of anthrax infection, and

9 WHEREAS, the detection of this anthrax infection was  
10 made possible by the Palm Beach County Health Department's  
11 proper use of its public-health surveillance systems and the  
12 hard work of its public-health professionals, and

13 WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Health Department, as a  
14 vital component of the Florida Department of Health, worked  
15 with state health officials, the Centers for Disease Control  
16 and Prevention, the Board of County Commissioners, and the  
17 residents of Palm Beach County to quickly confirm the first  
18 case of anthrax infection in the United States since 1978, and

19 WHEREAS, the identification of a second case of anthrax  
20 infection at the same workplace led to the conclusion that the  
21 infections were the result of a biological attack, and

22 WHEREAS, Palm Beach County Health Department's efforts,  
23 expertise, and leadership were instrumental in the state's  
24 early detection of anthrax, which "sounded the alarm" for  
25 health and law enforcement officials across the country, and

26 WHEREAS, as a result of these quick actions, other  
27 suspected attacks and previous attacks were identified, and

28 WHEREAS, this response to crisis resulted in the  
29 implementation of new procedures across the country to prevent  
30 and limit further anthrax infections, thereby saving many  
31 lives, and

1           WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Health Department has  
2 always played a vital role in making our state a leader in the  
3 field of public health and helping it serve as a model of  
4 preparedness and response for other areas, and

5           WHEREAS, throughout this public-health crisis, the Palm  
6 Beach County Health Department acted in an exemplary manner  
7 while fulfilling its obligations to protect and serve the  
8 public, NOW, THEREFORE,

9  
10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

11  
12           That the Florida Senate commends the staff of the Palm  
13 Beach County Health Department, Florida Department of Health,  
14 for their lifesaving and tireless efforts on behalf of the  
15 residents of Palm Beach County during the anthrax crisis.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
17 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be transmitted to the  
18 Palm Beach County Health Department as a tangible token of the  
19 sentiments of the Florida Senate.