

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

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

A resolution recognizing Familial Dysautonomia as a serious genetic disease affecting certain residents of this state and recognizing June 10, 2003, as Familial Dysautonomia Awareness Day in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Familial Dysautonomia is one group of genetically distinct disorders known as Hereditary Sensory and Autonomic Neuropathies, characterized by widespread sensory and autonomic dysfunction, and

WHEREAS, Familial Dysautonomia has been found only in persons of Ashkenazi Jewish extraction, is present from birth, and results in a strikingly wide range of disease, dysfunction, and suffering for afflicted children, including lung problems, blood pressure fluctuations, poor growth, spinal curvature, learning disabilities, and shortened life span, and

WHEREAS, genetic research has shown that Familial Dysautonomia is caused by mutations in a gene that is recessed in one or both parents, and that the presence of the mutated gene in either parent can be detected through genetic screening and testing, and

WHEREAS, as of March 2001, genetic screening and testing for Familial Dysautonomia became available to the general population through laboratories established by the Dysautonomia Foundation at New York University Medical Center and at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of Familial Dysautonomia will increase the likelihood that persons of Ashkenazi Jewish extraction will timely avail themselves of genetic screening,

1 testing, and counseling, and that affected infants will  
2 receive timely and effective diagnosis and treatment, NOW,  
3 THEREFORE,

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

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7 That the Florida Senate recognizes June 10, 2003, as  
8 "Familial Dysautonomia Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
10 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the  
11 President of the Dysautonomia Foundation as a tangible token  
12 of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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