

By Senator Wilson

33-2350-03

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing the week of April
3 20-26, 2003, as "Minority Cancer Awareness
4 Week" in the State of Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, although progress is being made in the fight
7 against cancer, the incidence of cancer is greater among
8 Floridians who are medically underserved than those who have
9 adequate access to quality medical care and treatment, and

10 WHEREAS, most Floridians who are medically underserved
11 are without adequate health care insurance, and the great
12 majority of these are senior citizens, people of African and
13 Latin descent, and people who are living below the national
14 standard for poverty, and

15 WHEREAS, 60 percent of all incidences of cancer and 65
16 percent of all cancer deaths occur in people who are over the
17 age of 65, and the United States Census estimates that, if
18 population trends continue, Florida will soon have more senior
19 citizens than any other state, and

20 WHEREAS, people of African descent, who constitute 15.2
21 percent of Florida's population, the largest element of
22 Florida's minority population, are 33 percent more likely to
23 die of cancer than people of Caucasian descent, and are 200
24 percent more likely to die of cancer than are people of Latin
25 descent, and

26 WHEREAS, people of Latin descent are the
27 fastest-growing element of the nation's population, are
28 expected by 2005 to become the largest element of Florida's
29 minority population, and the majority of people of Latin
30 descent are medically underserved due to cultural and language
31 differences and lack of adequate health care insurance, and

1 WHEREAS, 15.2 percent of Floridians live below the
2 national standard for poverty and do not have adequate medical
3 insurance, and

4 WHEREAS, due to the continuing efforts of the Biennial
5 Symposium on Minorities and the Medically Underserved, this
6 year is the 17th consecutive year in which Minority Cancer
7 Awareness Week is observed nationally, and adoption of this
8 resolution will provide the inaugural occasion for Minority
9 Cancer Awareness Week to be observed in Florida, and

10 WHEREAS, minority cancer awareness initiatives, such as
11 those promoted by the Florida Division of the American Cancer
12 Society, will promote strategies to reduce the ethnic and
13 racial cancer disparities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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17 That the Florida Senate recognizes the week of April
18 20-26, 2003, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in the State
19 of Florida.