



HR 9175

2003

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 20-26, 2003, as "Cancer Minority Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, although notable progress has been made in the fight against cancer in recent years, many Floridians continue to experience unequal rates of cancer incidence and mortality, including the elderly, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and the medically uninsured, many of whom are medically underserved individuals with inadequate access to adequate cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and rehabilitation services, and

WHEREAS, given the current population trends, the United States Bureau of the Census projects that Florida will become home to the highest percentage of elders in the nation, a group that experiences 60 percent of all cancers and 69 percent of cancer-related deaths, and

WHEREAS, African Americans, at 15.2 percent the largest minority population in the state, are 33 percent more likely than Caucasians and twice as likely than Hispanics and Latinos to die of cancer, and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing segment of the nation's population, Hispanics and Latinos, most of whom face barriers to health care access through a lack of health insurance coverage and cultural and language differences, are expected by the year 2005 to become the largest minority population in Florida, and

WHEREAS, 15.2 percent of Floridians live below the national poverty level, a condition frequently associated with a lack of access to adequate health care, including cancer screening, detection, and treatment services, and



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31 WHEREAS, observed nationally for 17 years, Minority Cancer  
32 Awareness Week is sponsored by the Biennial Symposium on  
33 Minorities and the Medically Underserved in an effort to reduce  
34 ethnic and racial cancer disparities through such strategies as  
35 those promoted by the American Cancer Society, NOW, THEREFORE,

36 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
37 Florida:

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39 That the House of Representatives recognizes April 20-26,  
40 2003, as "Cancer Minority Awareness Week" in Florida and urges  
41 all citizens to work together in an effort to increase awareness  
42 of and to end the disparities minority populations face in the  
43 fight against cancer.