

By Senators Wilson, Bullard, Dawson, Diaz de la Portilla,  
Garcia, Hill, Lawson, Miller, Siplin and Villalobos

33-30A-04

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

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

A resolution recognizing the week of April  
11-17, 2004, as "Minority Cancer Awareness  
Week" in the State of Florida.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, people of Hispanic descent are the  
fastest-growing element of the nation's population, are  
expected by 2005 to become the largest element of Florida's  
minority population, and the majority of people of Latin  
descent are medically underserved due to cultural and language  
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 18th 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,

14  
15 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

16  
17           That the Florida Senate recognizes the week of April  
18 11-17, 2004, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in the State  
19 of Florida.