

By Senator Saunders

37-1765A-04

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

2 A resolution recognizing May 2004 as "Alpha-1  
3 Awareness Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is  
6 one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the  
7 world, is caused by a defective gene, and can result in  
8 life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or in  
9 lung disease in adults, and

10 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all  
11 populations afflicting an estimated 100,000 Americans and a  
12 similar number in Europe, while more than 25 million people in  
13 the United States are believed to be carriers of the defective  
14 gene and may pass the gene on to their children, and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of under-diagnosis, or  
16 misdiagnosis as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or  
17 asthma, Alpha-1 has been detected in fewer than 10 percent of  
18 those who are believed to suffer from the disorder, often  
19 taking an average of five different physicians and 7 years  
20 from the time symptoms first appear before the simple blood  
21 test required to make a correct diagnosis is administered and  
22 the disorder is identified, and

23 WHEREAS, originating in the liver, Alpha-1 can lead to  
24 liver or lung failure at any time in life, is the most  
25 frequent genetic cause of disability and early death of  
26 afflicted persons, is the leading genetic cause for liver  
27 transplantation in children, and is a major reason for lung  
28 transplant, and

29 WHEREAS, increased awareness of Alpha-1 and its genetic  
30 cause will result in earlier detection and more appropriate  
31 treatment of the disorder, sparing those it afflicts from

1 enduring the persistence of the debilitation imposed by  
2 misdiagnosis of the disorder, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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6           That the Florida Senate recognizes May 2004 as "Alpha-1  
7 Awareness Month" in Florida, and encourages all who reside in  
8 this state to become knowledgeable about the cause of the  
9 disorder, its symptoms, and the diagnostic procedures most  
10 likely to lead to early detection and appropriate treatment.

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