

By Senator Rich

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 13-19, 2006,
as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in
Florida.

WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two
parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information
superhighway" because it contains bundles of neurons that
carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many bodily
functions, and

WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged
neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and
the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and muscle
control, and

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 250,000 to
400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a
spinal cord injury, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of
spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those
who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 11,000
new cases each year, and

WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries
is 19 years old, with 30 percent of all injuries occurring
between the ages of 17 and 23, and 53 percent of all injuries
occurring between the ages of 16 and 30, and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries
occur in men and 20 percent occur in women, and

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury
for both men and women are auto accidents, falls, gunshot
wounds, and recreational sporting activities, and

1 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for
2 individuals with spinal cord injury ranges from \$250,000 to
3 \$700,000 the first year after injury with an estimated
4 lifetime cost between \$500,000 and \$3 million, depending on
5 the severity of injury, and

6 WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, scientists have made
7 major breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged
8 neurons to regenerate and restore function and how to improve
9 the quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility
10 and pain management, and

11 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to
12 help fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as
13 well as improving the overall quality of life for individuals
14 with paralysis, and

15 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the
16 week of November 13-19 working with local governments and
17 schools to educate Floridians about the causes and treatments
18 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing residents on
19 how to prevent these injuries from taking place, NOW,

20 THEREFORE,

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

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24 That the week of November 13-19, 2006, is recognized as
25 "Spinal Cord Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.

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