

By Senators Wilson, Hill, Lawson, Joyner, Siplin, Aronberg, Dawson, Deutch, Rich, Diaz de la Portilla, Villalobos, Bullard and Garcia

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of April 15-21, 2007, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, there has been recent progress in the fight against cancer, yet many Floridians still suffer unequal rates of cancer incidence and mortality, and medically underserved populations have inadequate access to quality cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and rehabilitation services, and

WHEREAS, certain populations of Floridians, such as African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and the medically uninsured, experience higher rates of cancer incidence and death, and

WHEREAS, even when poverty levels are accounted for, African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders have lower 5-year-cancer-survival rates than whites who are not of Hispanic descent, and

WHEREAS, among all racial and ethnic groups, African Americans experience the highest death rate from all cancers and the highest death rate from lung, colorectal, prostate, and cervical cancers, and

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos are the fastest-growing segment of the nation's population, and Hispanics are now the largest minority population in Florida, and

WHEREAS, almost 35 percent of the Hispanic and Latino population have no health care coverage and almost 31 percent have no access to regular medical care, making Hispanics and Latinos the most medically underserved population among all racial and ethnic groups, and

1           WHEREAS, approximately 2.8 million or 19.2 percent of  
2 adult Floridians have no health insurance coverage and  
3 frequently lack access to quality health care, including  
4 potentially lifesaving services to screen for, detect, and  
5 treat cancer, and

6           WHEREAS, minority cancer awareness initiatives, such as  
7 those promoted by the American Cancer Society and Florida's  
8 recognition of the nationally observed Minority Cancer  
9 Awareness Week, will encourage efforts to reduce ethnic,  
10 racial, and socioeconomic cancer disparities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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14           That the Florida Senate recognizes April 15-21, 2007,  
15 the third week of the month, as "Minority Cancer Awareness  
16 Week" in the State of Florida, and urges all Floridians to  
17 work with cancer-education providers, such as the American  
18 Cancer Society, to increase awareness of the disparities that  
19 minority populations face in the fight against cancer.  
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