

HR 9103

2007

House Resolution

A resolution supporting education, screening, and aggressive medical treatment to help prevent diabetes.

WHEREAS, diabetes is a chronic and serious disease for which there is currently no cure, and

WHEREAS, individuals who have type 1 diabetes are most often children or young adults who are unable to produce or properly use insulin, and

WHEREAS, individuals having type 2 diabetes, or adult-onset diabetes, cannot produce enough insulin or properly use insulin and often do not exhibit symptoms in the early stages of the disease, and

WHEREAS, patients suffering from diabetes have long-term complications, including high blood sugar levels, blindness, lower extremity amputation, heart disease, kidney failure, and premature death, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the number of individuals diagnosed with diabetes has increased dramatically, and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 individuals who are newly diagnosed with adult-onset diabetes also suffer from obesity, and

WHEREAS, America faces a diabetic epidemic wherein an estimated 20.8 million Americans nationwide live with diabetes, and

WHEREAS, diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in Florida, with the highest concentration of deaths located in the panhandle of Florida and central Florida, and

WHEREAS, research has shown that some ethnic groups are

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29 disproportionately affected by diabetes compared to the general
30 population, which is of great concern in Florida because more
31 than one-third of the state's population is African-American,
32 Hispanic, or Native American, and

33 WHEREAS, the earlier that a person is diagnosed with
34 diabetes and receives treatment, the better the person's chances
35 are for avoiding the complications of the disease, and

36 WHEREAS, the first line of treatment recommended by health
37 care standards is diet and exercise, and a healthful diet and
38 loss of excess weight can have a positive effect on the human
39 body's ability to fight the disease, and

40 WHEREAS, traditionally those persons who are at the highest
41 risk include older individuals, those who have a family history
42 of the disease, and those who are overweight, and

43 WHEREAS, in recent years there has been an alarming
44 increase in the growing number of younger people who are being
45 diagnosed with diabetes, which is attributed to lifestyle and
46 excessive body mass, NOW, THEREFORE,

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48 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
49 Florida:

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51 That health care providers in this state are encouraged to
52 adopt generally recognized clinical practice guidelines to help
53 manage diabetes.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that health care providers are
55 strongly encouraged to inform patients that proper nutrition and
56 exercise may reduce their chances of contracting diabetes.