

By Senator Rich

34-07807-08

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## Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing January 2009 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed in women worldwide, and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks fourth in the nation for the highest numbers of new cervical cancer cases, and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that 770 new cases of cervical cancer in Florida will be diagnosed during the year 2008, and

WHEREAS, the incidence of and mortality from cervical cancer has been greatly reduced due to the use of Pap tests, which can detect precancerous lesions that can be treated before a cancer develops, and

WHEREAS, invasive cervical cancers are diagnosed at the localized, most treatable and survivable stage in 53 percent of white women and 45 percent of African American women, and

WHEREAS, the primary cause of cervical cancer is infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus commonly found in healthy women and only rarely resulting in cancer, and

WHEREAS, early detection, through annual Pap tests in compliance with the American Cancer Society's recommended guidelines, is the key to detecting cervical cancer at pre-cancerous stages, and

WHEREAS, the burden of cervical cancer can be significantly reduced due to the development of the first vaccine to prevent the most common HPV infections that cause cervical cancer, for use in females ages 9 to 26, and

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30 WHEREAS, early cervical cancer detection through regular  
31 screening is the goal of the promotion of January as Cervical  
32 Cancer Awareness Month and of cervical cancer screening programs,  
33 such as the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early  
34 Detection program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and  
35 Prevention, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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39 That the Senate recognizes the month of January 2009 as  
40 "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida and urges all women  
41 to understand the risks associated with cervical cancer, to take  
42 preventive steps to minimize those risks, and to undergo early  
43 detection procedures such as Pap tests and compliance with the  
44 American Cancer Society's recommended cervical cancer screening  
45 guidelines.