

HR 9027

2008

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 10-16, 2008, as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of the brain and the spinal cord, the latter of which is considered the body's "information superhighway" because its bundles of neurons carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many bodily functions; however, after a spinal cord injury, damaged neurons can no longer emit signals and the injured person suffers permanent loss of sensory perception and muscle control, and

WHEREAS, there are currently between 250,000 and 400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained spinal cord injuries, and it is estimated that the annual incidence of spinal cord injury in the nation, not including victims who die at the scene of an accident, increases by roughly 11,000 new cases each year, and

WHEREAS, the leading causes of spinal cord injury are automobile accidents, falls, gunshot wounds, and recreational sporting accidents, with 80 percent of such injuries occurring in men and 20 percent in women, and the most common age of victims of spinal cord injury is 19 years, and

WHEREAS, during the past 15 years, scientists have made major breakthroughs in the understanding of how damaged neurons may be encouraged to regenerate and gain restored function and in methods designed to improve the quality of life for injured patients in such critical areas as infertility and pain management, and

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29 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation, which has funded
30 research aimed not only at finding a cure for paralysis but also
31 at improving the overall quality of life for individuals who are
32 suffering from this debilitating condition, will devote the week
33 of November 10-16, 2008, to working with local governments and
34 schools in an effort to educate Floridians as to the causes and
35 treatments of spinal cord injuries and to stress ways to prevent
36 the occurrence of such injuries, NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
39 Florida:

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41 That the House of Representatives recognizes the week of
42 November 10-16, 2008, as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in
43 Florida and urges all Floridians to make themselves aware of the
44 causes and prevention of spinal cord injuries.