

By Senator Rich

34-02717-08

2008974__

Senate 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 two parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information superhighway" of the body 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

34-02717-08

2008974__

30 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals who
31 have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$250,000 to \$700,000 the
32 first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost ranging
33 between \$500,000 and \$3 million depending on the severity of
34 injury, and

35 WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, scientists have made major
36 breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons
37 to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the quality
38 of life for patients in areas such as infertility and pain
39 management, and

40 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help
41 fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as well as
42 improving the overall quality of life for individuals with
43 paralysis, and

44 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week of
45 November 10-16 working with local governments and schools to
46 educate Floridians about the causes and treatments for spinal
47 cord injuries, as well as informing residents on how to prevent
48 these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE,

49

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

51

52 That the week of November 10-16, 2008, is recognized as
53 "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.