

By Senator Rich

34-01700-09

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing August 2009 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a relatively common "rare disorder," affecting about one in 6,000 babies, and about one in 40 people are genetic carriers, and

WHEREAS, SMA is found mainly in newborns and children, affecting the spinal nerves and the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and

WHEREAS, SMA affects muscles throughout the body, although the proximal muscles are often most severely affected, causing weakness in the legs and arms, and sometimes affecting feeding and swallowing, and

WHEREAS, SMA involves respiratory muscles, which can lead to an increased tendency for pneumonia and other lung problems, and

WHEREAS, SMA does not affect sensation and the ability to feel, intellectual activity is normal, and patients who have SMA are unusually bright and sociable, and

WHEREAS, SMA is an autosomal recessive genetic disease, which means that in order for a child to be affected by SMA, both parents must be carriers of the abnormal gene, both must pass this gene on to their child, and the likelihood of a child inheriting the disorder is one in four of those cases, and

WHEREAS, SMA crosses all racial, ethnic, and gender boundaries and, although it is primarily diagnosed in children, it can affect people of any age, and

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30 WHEREAS, Families of SMA, a grassroots organization, is
31 working to help raise awareness of the disease and funding for
32 research, education, advocacy, and patient services, and

33 WHEREAS, individuals and organizations that bring greater
34 awareness to health issues and assist people in their quest to
35 overcome related obstacles are a great benefit to the health and
36 welfare of all citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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40 That August 2009 is recognized as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy
41 Awareness Month."