

By Senator Sobel

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 16, 2009, as
"Healthcare Decisions Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Bar Association provides the specifics of Florida's advance directives law and offers a model form for patient use, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only approximately 20 percent of Floridians have executed an advance directive and that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive, and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of public knowledge and considerable confusion about advance directives, and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Floridians with advance directives, and

WHEREAS, other organizations throughout Florida are

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30 encouraged to endorse this event and express their commitment to
31 educating the public about the importance of discussing health
32 care choices and executing advance directives, and

33 WHEREAS, as a result of "Healthcare Decisions Day" in
34 Florida, the hope is that Floridians will have conversations
35 about their health care decisions and execute advance directives
36 to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care
37 providers will have to struggle with making difficult health
38 care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient, NOW,
39 THEREFORE,

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

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43 That April 16, 2009, is recognized as "Healthcare Decisions
44 Day" in the State of Florida.