

By Senator Hill

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing May 12, 2009, as
3 "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, an estimated 10 million people in the United
6 States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with
7 fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or
8 cure, and

9 WHEREAS, it often takes an average of 5 years to receive a
10 diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently
11 are inadequately educated on the diagnosis and treatment of
12 fibromyalgia, and

13 WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain disorder that is
14 becoming an increasingly common diagnosis and taking a toll
15 emotionally, financially, and socially on patients, their
16 family, friends, coworkers, and communities, and

17 WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is life-altering, preventing patients
18 from contributing to society at the level they once did because
19 of myriad symptoms that can come and go unpredictably and vary
20 in severity, and

21 WHEREAS, the chronically ill place a larger burden on the
22 health care and insurance systems and employers due to the costs
23 associated with treatment, medications, and sometimes
24 hospitalizations associated with the disorder, and

25 WHEREAS, society as a whole is also affected when patients
26 are physically unable to work and must depend on government
27 assistance to survive, and

28 WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the
29 realities of life with fibromyalgia will allow the community at

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30 large to better support patients and their families, friends,
31 coworkers, and employers who struggle with the challenges of
32 this chronic-pain disorder, and

33 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association is a
34 nonprofit charitable organization and the publisher of
35 *Fibromyalgia AWARE*, the first and only consumer magazine on
36 fibromyalgia, and

37 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association and Fibro
38 Chronic Babes of Jacksonville and other groups around the
39 country have joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness
40 and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research,
41 and treatment, and

42 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association is urging
43 fibromyalgia patients and their supporters, health care
44 providers, and the public to join its efforts on or around May
45 12, 2009, to walk for a solution in their community or
46 participate in an effort to bring awareness to the far-reaching
47 effects of fibromyalgia, NOW, THEREFORE,

48
49 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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51 That May 12, 2009 is recognized as "Fibromyalgia Awareness
52 Day" in Florida, and the Senate urges all Floridians to support
53 the search for a cure and assist individuals and families in
54 dealing with this disorder.