

By Senator Crist

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Senate Resolution

A resolution encouraging the use of eye safety devices  
in youth sports.

WHEREAS, according to the American Optometric Association  
and other sources, eye injuries are the leading cause of  
blindness in children in the United States, and most of those  
occurring in school-aged children are sports-related, and

WHEREAS, of the 1.6 million to 2.4 million Americans who  
sustain eye injuries each year, an estimated 40,000 will be  
legally blinded in the injured eye, with about one-third of  
these injuries resulting from sports, and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 eye injuries in the United  
States each year are estimated to be sports-related, and

WHEREAS, sports-related eye injuries in the United States  
account for more than 100,000 physician visits yearly at a cost  
of \$175 million, and

WHEREAS, more than 42,000 of these sports-related eye  
injuries require a visit to an emergency room, and

WHEREAS, every 13 minutes an emergency room in the United  
States treats a sports-related eye injury, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 27 percent of all eye injuries in  
children aged 11 to 14 are sports-related, and

WHEREAS, children younger than 15 years of age account for  
43 percent of sports and recreational eye injuries overall, and

WHEREAS, the sports responsible for the greatest number of  
injuries are baseball, ice hockey, and racquet sports, and

WHEREAS, baseball is the leading cause of sports-related  
eye injury among children aged 14 and younger, and

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30 WHEREAS, basketball is the leading cause of sports-related  
31 eye injury in athletes aged 15 to 24, and

32 WHEREAS, the odds of an eye injury for basketball players  
33 are 1 in 10, and

34 WHEREAS, soccer ball-related ocular injuries  
35 disproportionately affect young players, are more frequent in  
36 females, and have severe visual consequences, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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40 That school districts, park and recreation departments, and  
41 other local, county, and state entities sponsoring organized  
42 sports activities are encouraged to make participants and legal  
43 guardians aware of the dangers to children's eyes.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school districts, park and  
45 recreation departments, and other local, county, and state  
46 entities sponsoring organized sports activities provide  
47 information to participants and legal guardians about the use of  
48 protective eyewear as a means to reduce the risk of significant  
49 eye injury.