

HR 9067

2009

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing August 2009 as "Spinal Muscular  
3 Atrophy Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a rare autosomal  
6 genetic disease found mainly in newborns and children that  
7 affects the spinal nerves and causes weakness, especially in the  
8 muscles closest to the spine, and

9 WHEREAS, SMA is a motor neuron disease, affecting the  
10 voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling,  
11 walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and

12 WHEREAS, SMA is a relatively common "rare disorder,"  
13 affecting approximately one in 6,000 babies born, with about one  
14 in 40 people being genetic carriers, and

15 WHEREAS, SMA affects muscles throughout the body, although  
16 the proximal muscles are often the most severely affected and  
17 weakness in the legs is generally greater than in the arms, and

18 WHEREAS, the disease's effect on the respiratory muscles  
19 can lead to an increased tendency for pneumonia and other lung  
20 problems, and

21 WHEREAS, intellectual activity is unaffected by SMA, and it  
22 is often observed that patients with SMA are unusually bright  
23 and sociable, and

24 WHEREAS, in order for a child to be affected by SMA, both  
25 parents must be carriers of the abnormal gene and both must pass  
26 the gene on to their child, and

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27 WHEREAS, even if both parents are carriers of the gene, the  
28 probability of a child inheriting the disorder is 25 percent,  
29 and

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

33 WHEREAS, Families of SMA, a grassroots organization, is  
34 diligently working to help raise both awareness and funding for  
35 research, education, advocacy, and patient services for SMA and  
36 those who suffer from it, and

37 WHEREAS, there are currently two chapters of Families of  
38 SMA in Florida, the South Florida Chapter and the Greater  
39 Florida Chapter, serving individuals and family members affected  
40 by Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and

41 WHEREAS, individuals and organizations that bring greater  
42 awareness to physical health issues, and assist people in their  
43 quest to overcome these obstacles, are a great benefit to the  
44 health and welfare of all citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

45  
46 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
47 Florida:

48  
49 That August 2009 is recognized as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
50 Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.