

HR 9125

2009

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 16-22, 2009, as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of neurons that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many bodily functions, and

WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and muscle control, and

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 250,000 to 400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal cord injury, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the incidence of spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 11,000 new cases annually, and

WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19 years old, with 30 percent of all injuries occurring between the ages of 17 and 23 years and 53 percent of all injuries occurring between the ages of 16 and 30 years, and

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of spinal cord injuries occur in men and 20 percent occur in women, and

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for both men and women are automobile accidents, falls, gunshot

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29 | wounds, and recreational sporting accidents, and

30 | WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals
31 | who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$250,000 to \$700,000
32 | the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost
33 | ranging between \$500,000 and \$3 million depending on the
34 | severity of injury, and

35 | WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, scientists have made major
36 | breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons
37 | to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the
38 | quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility and
39 | pain management, and

40 | WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help
41 | fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis as well as
42 | improving the overall quality of life for individuals with
43 | paralysis, and

44 | WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week
45 | of November 16-22 working with local governments and schools to
46 | educate Floridians about the causes of and treatments for spinal
47 | cord injuries as well as informing the public on how to prevent
48 | these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE,

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50 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
51 | Florida:

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53 | That November 16-22, 2009, is recognized as "Spinal Cord
54 | Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.