

By Senator Wilson

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the week of April 12-18,
3 2009, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in the State
4 of Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, there has been recent progress in the fight
7 against cancer, yet many Floridians still suffer unequal rates
8 of cancer incidence and mortality, and medically underserved
9 populations have inadequate access to quality cancer prevention,
10 screening, treatment, and rehabilitation services, and

11 WHEREAS, certain populations of Floridians, such as African
12 Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and the medically uninsured,
13 experience higher rates of cancer incidence and death, and

14 WHEREAS, even when poverty levels are accounted for,
15 African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and
16 Pacific Islanders have lower 5-year-cancer-survival rates than
17 whites who are not of Hispanic descent, and

18 WHEREAS, among all racial and ethnic groups, African
19 Americans experience the highest death rate from all cancers and
20 the highest death rate from lung, colorectal, prostate, and
21 cervical cancers, and

22 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos are the fastest-growing
23 segment of the nation's population, and Hispanics are now the
24 largest minority population in Florida, and

25 WHEREAS, almost 35 percent of the Hispanic and Latino
26 population have no health care coverage and almost 31 percent
27 have no access to regular medical care, making Hispanics and
28 Latinos the most medically underserved population among all
29 racial and ethnic groups, and

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30 WHEREAS, approximately 2.8 million or 19.2 percent of adult
31 Floridians have no health insurance coverage and frequently lack
32 access to quality health care, including potentially lifesaving
33 services that screen for, detect, and treat cancer, and

34 WHEREAS, minority cancer awareness initiatives, such as
35 those promoted by the American Cancer Society and Florida's
36 recognition of the nationally observed Minority Cancer Awareness
37 Week, will encourage efforts to reduce ethnic, racial, and
38 socioeconomic cancer disparities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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42 That the Florida Senate recognizes April 12-18, 2009, as
43 "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in the State of Florida, and
44 urges all Floridians to work with cancer-education providers,
45 such as the American Cancer Society, to increase awareness of
46 the disparities that minority populations face in the fight
47 against cancer.