

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.

5  
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.