

By Senator Rich

34-01398-09

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1 Senate Resolution

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 250,000 to
15 400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a
16 spinal cord injury, and

17 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of
18 spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who
19 die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 11,000 new
20 cases each year, and

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

25 WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries occur
26 in men and 20 percent occur in women, and

27 WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for
28 both men and women are auto accidents, falls, gunshot wounds,
29 and recreational sporting activities, and

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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 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,

49

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

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