

HR 9001

2010

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing November 15-21, 2010, as "Spinal
3 Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

4
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 loss of muscle
14 control, and

15 WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 259,000
16 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal
17 cord injury, and

18 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of
19 spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who
20 die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 12,000 new
21 cases each year, and

22 WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19
23 years old, with 30 percent of all injuries occurring between the
24 ages of 17 and 23, and 52 percent of all injuries occurring
25 between the ages of 16 and 30, and

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

28 WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for

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29 both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,
30 and recreational sporting activities, and

31 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals
32 who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$236,000 to \$800,000
33 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost
34 ranging between \$500,000 and \$3 million depending on the
35 severity of injury, and

36 WHEREAS, in the past 16 years, scientists have made major
37 breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons
38 to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the
39 quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility and
40 pain management, and

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

45 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week
46 of November 15-21, 2010, working with local governments and
47 schools to educate Floridians about the causes of and treatments
48 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing the public on how
49 to prevent these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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54 That November 15-21, 2010, is recognized as "Spinal Cord
55 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.