

HR 9039

2010

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 16, 2010, as "Healthcare
3 Decisions Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise
6 public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care
7 decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-
8 making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and
9 to encourage the specific use of advance directives to
10 communicate these important health care decisions, and

11 WHEREAS, the Florida Bar Association provides the specifics
12 of Florida's advance directives law and offers a model form for
13 patient use, and

14 WHEREAS, it is estimated that only approximately 20 percent
15 of Floridians have executed an advance directive and that less
16 than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an
17 advance directive, and

18 WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these
19 low percentages is that there is both a lack of public knowledge
20 and considerable confusion about advance directives, and

21 WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions
22 Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living
23 facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices
24 to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and
25 consistent information to the public about advance directives,
26 as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to
27 volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and
28 increase the number of Floridians with advance directives, and

HR 9039

2010

29 WHEREAS, other organizations throughout Florida are
30 encouraged to endorse this event and express their commitment to
31 educating the public about the importance of discussing health
32 care choices and executing advance directives, and

33 WHEREAS, as a result of "Healthcare Decisions Day" in
34 Florida, the hope is that more Floridians will have
35 conversations about their health care decisions and execute
36 advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer
37 families and health care providers will have to struggle with
38 making difficult health care decisions in the absence of
39 guidance from the patient, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

41 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
42 Florida:

43

44 That April 16, 2010, is recognized as "Healthcare Decisions
45 Day" in the State of Florida.