

By Senator Rich

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 14-20, 2011, as
"Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 262,000
individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal
cord injury, and

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

WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19
years old, with 25 percent of all injuries occurring between the
ages of 17 and 23, and 51 percent of all injuries occurring
between the ages of 16 and 30, and

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

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for
both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,

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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 \$245,000 to \$830,000
33 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost
34 ranging between \$529,000 and \$3.3 million depending on the
35 severity of injury, and

36 WHEREAS, in the past 17 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 14-20, 2011, 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 Senate of the State of Florida:

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53 That November 14-20, 2011, is recognized as "Spinal Cord
54 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.