

By Senator Braynon

33-03986-11

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 16-22, 2011, as  
"Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, there has been recent progress in the fight  
against cancer, yet due to disparities in the cancer burden  
among different segments of the U.S. population, many Floridians  
still suffer unequal rates of cancer incidence and mortality,  
and medically underserved populations have inadequate access to  
quality cancer care, and

WHEREAS, for certain minority populations, cancer risks and  
rates may be influenced by factors such as poverty, social  
inequalities, and cultural or inherited factors that decrease or  
increase risk, and

WHEREAS, disparities in the cancer burden among racial and  
ethnic minorities largely reflect obstacles to receiving health  
care services related to cancer prevention, early detection, and  
high-quality treatment, and

WHEREAS, lack of health insurance is more prevalent among  
certain minority groups, with 1 in 5 African Americans and 1 in  
3 Hispanics and Latinos uninsured in 2008, while only 1 in 10  
non-Hispanic whites lacked health insurance during that same  
year, and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest death rate and  
shortest survival of any racial and ethnic group in the nation  
for most cancers, with the death rate for all cancers combined  
at 33 percent higher in African American men and 16 percent  
higher in African American women than in white men and women in  
2005, and

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30 WHEREAS, despite improvements in the overall 5-year  
31 relative survival, African Americans continue to be less likely  
32 to survive 5 years following the onset of most cancers due  
33 largely to barriers that prevent timely and high-quality medical  
34 care and disparities in treatment, and

35 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos are the largest, fastest-  
36 growing minority group in the United States, and among  
37 Hispanics, cancer is the second leading cause of death,  
38 accounting for 20 percent of deaths overall and 13 percent of  
39 deaths in children, and

40 WHEREAS, Hispanics have higher rates of cancers associated  
41 with infection, such as uterine cervix, liver, and stomach  
42 cancer, yet are less likely to have health insurance than any  
43 other racial or ethnic group, and

44 WHEREAS, access to care is one of the most significant  
45 factors influencing the cancer burden in the Hispanic  
46 population, and many may not receive health care due to  
47 financial barriers, which include inadequate health insurance,  
48 structural barriers, which include poor geographic access to  
49 providers, and personal barriers, which include cultural and  
50 linguistic factors, and

51 WHEREAS, minority cancer awareness initiatives and policies  
52 aimed at reducing disparities, such as those promoted and  
53 supported by the American Cancer Society and Florida's  
54 recognition of the nationally observed Minority Cancer Awareness  
55 Week, will encourage efforts to reduce ethnic, racial, and  
56 socioeconomic cancer disparities, NOW, THEREFORE,

57  
58 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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60 That April 16-22, 2011, is recognized as "Minority Cancer  
61 Awareness Week" in Florida.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Floridians are urged to  
63 support the efforts of cancer education providers, such as the  
64 American Cancer Society, to increase awareness of the  
65 disparities that minority populations face in the fight against  
66 cancer, and to support policies that seek to reduce disparities,  
67 such as the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early  
68 Detection Program and Minority Health Initiatives within the  
69 Florida Department of Health.