

HR 9113

2011

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2011 as "Cancer Clinical  
3 Trial Awareness Month" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, 40 years ago, a blood cancer diagnosis was a near  
6 death sentence for a child but, through the dedication and  
7 perseverance of cancer clinical trials, the survival rate today  
8 for children with acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common  
9 form of leukemia among children, is more than 90 percent, and

10 WHEREAS, while nearly 60 percent of all pediatric cancer  
11 patients participate in clinical trials, only 3 percent to 5  
12 percent of adult cancer patients participate because of the  
13 potential loss of insurance coverage for routine patient care,  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, cancer clinical trials are at the forefront of  
16 cancer research, allowing patients access to groundbreaking  
17 treatments that can prove to be lifesaving, and

18 WHEREAS, the incidence and mortality rate of cancer in  
19 Florida is higher than the national average, with cancer being  
20 the state's leading cause of death, and

21 WHEREAS, in order to ensure coverage for the state's  
22 citizens suffering from cancer, the state created a voluntary  
23 agreement among healthcare providers, insurers, and patient  
24 advocacy groups which allows adult cancer patients to maintain  
25 their coverage of routine patient care while participating in a  
26 clinical trial, making Florida one of only five states to create  
27 such an agreement, and

HR 9113

2011

28 WHEREAS, representatives from Aetna, AvMed Health Plans,  
29 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, CIGNA, Humana, Inc.,  
30 United Healthcare, Vista Healthplan, Inc., and Vista Healthplan  
31 of South Florida, Inc., signed the agreement, ensuring that  
32 cancer patients across the state would have access to crucial  
33 medical care while participating in a clinical trial, and

34 WHEREAS, this voluntary agreement allows for further  
35 advancements in the field of cancer research and gives more  
36 patients the opportunity to receive better medical care and an  
37 increased chance of survival, NOW, THEREFORE,

38

39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
40 Florida:

41

42 That April 2011 is recognized as "Cancer Clinical Trial  
43 Awareness Month" in Florida.