

By Senator Thrasher

8-01869-12

20122040__

1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Jimbo and Candi Fisher and
3 Kidz1stFund for their efforts to raise awareness of
4 and find a cure for Fanconi anemia.

5
6 WHEREAS, Kidz1stFund was established by Jimbo and Candi
7 Fisher after their youngest son, Ethan, was diagnosed with the
8 genetic disease, Fanconi anemia (FA), and

9 WHEREAS, in establishing Kidz1stFund, Jimbo and Candi
10 Fisher launched their public battle against FA in the hopes of
11 improving treatment options, raising national awareness of the
12 disease, and helping to fund research that will lead to a cure
13 for all who suffer from this disease, and

14 WHEREAS, FA occurs equally in males and females and all
15 ethnic and racial groups, reducing the average life expectancy
16 of those who have the disease to 24.7 years, although some live
17 longer lives due to the unflagging efforts of the physician
18 research community focused on FA, and

19 WHEREAS, some patients with FA have no physical
20 manifestation of the disease, while others have a variety of
21 health issues including short stature, deformities of the arms
22 and hands, kidney problems, heart defects, and hearing problems,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, as the course of the disease progresses, it leads
25 to bone marrow failure that necessitates a bone marrow or cord
26 blood transplant, which increases a patient's chances of
27 developing a variety of cancers at a much earlier age than the
28 general population, and

29 WHEREAS, there is no cure for the disease itself, but

8-01869-12

20122040

30 treatments are available for the bone marrow failure associated
31 with FA, and

32 WHEREAS, FA often is not diagnosed or is misdiagnosed due
33 to the lack of awareness of the disease among physicians and the
34 public, and it is estimated that 1 out of every 131,000 children
35 may be affected by FA, and

36 WHEREAS, it is essential that children be tested for FA
37 before undergoing bone marrow transplantation for aplastic
38 anemia or other cancers that generally do not develop in young
39 adulthood, as FA patients cannot tolerate standard chemotherapy
40 and radiation treatments, and

41 WHEREAS, bone marrow transplant is the most common form of
42 treatment for FA, yet, like young Ethan, who depends on a
43 national registry of marrow and umbilical cord blood for a life-
44 saving match, 70 percent of all patients needing a bone marrow
45 transplant do not have a donor in their families, and

46 WHEREAS, families touched by FA urged Congress to develop
47 the National Marrow Donor Program, a registry that has more than
48 14 million donors and facilitates matches with unrelated donors,
49 and

50 WHEREAS, Jimbo and Candi Fisher and Kidz1stFund have
51 expressed their gratitude for the C.W. "Bill" Young Cell
52 Transplantation Program, a federal program that supports bone
53 marrow and cord blood donation and transplantation, and

54 WHEREAS, FA research has led to a new understanding of how
55 various cancers develop and new ways to treat them, including
56 ovarian, leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma, and

57 WHEREAS, the entire Fisher family and Kidz1stFund are
58 "OnaKwest For A Cure" and encourage all Floridians to join them

8-01869-12

20122040__

59 in saying, "I fight Fanconi!" NOW, THEREFORE,

60

61 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

62

63 That the members of the Senate recognize the efforts of
64 Jimbo and Candi Fisher and Kidz1stFund to raise awareness of and
65 fight for a cure for Fanconi anemia, and extend best wishes to
66 them and their sons, Ethan and Trey.