

HR 9047

2012

House Resolution

A resolution designating May 2012 as "Skin Cancer Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, malignant melanoma is a serious skin cancer characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing cells, and

WHEREAS, while melanoma can be caused by genetic factors or immune deficiencies, the most common cause is excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation, particularly through multiple sunburns during childhood or exposure to tanning devices at a young age, and

WHEREAS, melanoma is the most common form of cancer among people 25 to 29 years old and its incidence has doubled in the past two decades, with over 120,000 new cases occurring each year, and the American Cancer Society estimates that 75 percent of skin cancer deaths are due to melanoma, with one death occurring in the United States every hour, and

WHEREAS, melanoma is highly curable if detected early, with a five-year survival rate of 98 percent when detected before spreading to the lymph nodes, but if melanoma is detected in the regional stage or distant stage, the five-year survival rate falls to 62 percent and 16 percent, respectively, and

WHEREAS, the most effective method of detection is visual self-inspection for changes in the appearance of existing moles or blemishes or, for individuals with increased risk factors, such as the existence of more than 50 moles or a past personal

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28 | or family history of melanoma, a complete skin examination by a
29 | dermatologist at least annually, and

30 | WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy
31 | of Dermatology, and the Florida Society of Dermatology and
32 | Dermatologic Surgery have consistently promoted melanoma
33 | awareness through the encouragement of prevention, early
34 | detection, and annual screening for this potentially deadly
35 | disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

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37 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 | Florida:

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40 | That May 2012 is designated as "Skin Cancer Awareness
41 | Month" in the State of Florida.