

HR 9033

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2013 as "Esophageal
3 Cancer Awareness Month" in Florida.
4

5 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is the fastest-growing cancer
6 diagnosis in the United States, increasing more than 400 percent
7 in the past 20 years, and

8 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of
9 cancers, killing one American every 36 minutes, with fewer than
10 one in five patients surviving 5 years, and

11 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer has low survival rates because
12 it is usually discovered at advanced stages, when treatment
13 outcomes are poor, and

14 WHEREAS, in the United States, esophageal cancer is most
15 often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux
16 disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the
17 potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several
18 weeks or months, and

19 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is often a silent killer, with
20 patients often unaware that cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or
21 chest pain may be a sign of GERD and a reason to discuss
22 screening for the disease with their health care professional,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer may develop from GERD when acid
25 from the stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus,
26 resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's
27 Esophagus, which can lead to a 125-fold increase in a patient's
28 risk of developing esophageal cancer, and

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29 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer may be prevented through early
30 detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be
31 treated with new, curative techniques, and

32 WHEREAS, the Esophageal Cancer Action Network and
33 Esophageal Cancer Support, Inc., are working to improve public
34 awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and actively
35 support progress in the early detection and treatment of
36 esophageal cancer, and

37 WHEREAS, increased awareness of esophageal cancer, coupled
38 with improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment
39 strategies, will enhance the health and well-being of all
40 Americans, NOW, THEREFORE,

41
42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 Florida:

44
45 That April 2013 is recognized as "Esophageal Cancer
46 Awareness Month" in Florida.