

HR 9059

2013

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing November 11-17, 2013, as  
3 "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two  
6 parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

7 WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information  
8 superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of neurons  
9 that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many  
10 bodily functions, and

11 WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons  
12 can no longer carry nerve impulses to and from the brain and the  
13 rest of the body, and the injured person suffers a loss of  
14 function, such as mobility or feeling, and

15 WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 270,000  
16 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal  
17 cord injury, and

18 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of  
19 spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who  
20 die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 12,000 new  
21 cases each year, and

22 WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19  
23 years old, the median age for spinal cord injuries is 26, and  
24 the highest per capita rate of injury occurs between the ages of  
25 16 and 30, and

26 WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries occur  
27 in men and nearly 20 percent occur in women, and

28 WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for

HR 9059

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29 both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,  
30 and recreational sporting activities, and

31 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals  
32 who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$334,170 to \$1,023,924  
33 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost  
34 ranging between \$1,517,806 and \$4,543,182 depending on the  
35 severity of injury, and

36 WHEREAS, researchers continue to make major advances in the  
37 laboratory in understanding how to decrease damage at the time  
38 of injury and how to improve the quality of life for patients in  
39 areas such as infertility and health management, and

40 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help  
41 fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as well as  
42 improving the overall quality of life for individuals with  
43 paralysis, and

44 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week  
45 of November 11-17, 2013, working with local governments and  
46 schools to educate Floridians about the causes of and treatments  
47 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing the public on how  
48 to prevent these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE,

49  
50 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
51 Florida:

52  
53 That November 11-17, 2013, is recognized as "Spinal Cord  
54 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.