

By Senator Hukill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of November 16-22, 2015, as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

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

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

WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and loss of muscle control, and

WHEREAS, some 273,000 individuals in the United States have sustained a spinal cord injury, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of spinal cord injury in the United States is about 12,000 new cases, not including those who die at the scene of an accident, and

WHEREAS, age 42 is the average age for spinal cord injuries, with nearly half of all injuries occurring between the ages of 16 and 30, and

WHEREAS, men are at much greater risk for spinal cord injury, with 80.7 percent of all spinal cord injuries occurring in men, and

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,

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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 \$340,000 to \$1.04  
33 million the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime  
34 cost ranging between \$1.5 million and \$4.6 million depending on  
35 the severity of injury, and

36 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, scientists have made  
37 major breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged  
38 neurons to regenerate and restore function and how to improve  
39 the quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility  
40 and pain management, and

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

45 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week  
46 of November 16-22, 2015, working with local governments and  
47 schools to educate Floridians about the causes of and treatments  
48 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing the public on the  
49 prevention of these injuries, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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53 That November 16-22, 2015, is recognized as "Spinal Cord  
54 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.