

By Senator Hukill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2015 as "American Stroke Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, striking more than 795,000 Americans each year and killing almost 130,000, including a total of 25,310 Floridians from 2011 through 2013, and

WHEREAS, stroke is also a leading cause of serious long-term disability in the United States, with more than 1.1 million adults experiencing functional limitations or difficulty with activities of daily living resulting from stroke, and

WHEREAS, on the average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds and takes a life every 4 minutes in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the estimated direct and indirect costs of stroke in the United States were more than \$73.7 billion, and

WHEREAS, many Americans are unaware of their risk factors for a stroke and of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke, and

WHEREAS, statistics show that African Americans have almost twice the risk of a first stroke compared to Caucasians, in part because of their increased risk of high blood pressure and diabetes, and

WHEREAS, the American Stroke Association's "Together to End Stroke" initiative, which begins on May 1 with the American Stroke "Day of Action" and continues year-round, encourages Americans to learn their personal stroke risk, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign of a stroke, and

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30 WHEREAS, one in three Americans cannot recall any stroke  
31 warning signs or symptoms, and

32 WHEREAS, the American Stroke Association's "Together to End  
33 Stroke" initiative helps people learn how to recognize and  
34 respond to stroke warning signs using the acronym "FAST," in  
35 which "F" stands for face drooping, "A" stands for arm weakness,  
36 "S" stands for speech difficulty, and "T" stands for time to  
37 call 911 if any signs are present, and

38 WHEREAS, new and effective treatments have been developed  
39 to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of  
40 strokes, but much more research is needed, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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44 That May 2015 is recognized as "American Stroke Month" in  
45 Florida and that all residents of this state are urged to  
46 familiarize themselves with the risk factors, warning signs, and  
47 symptoms associated with stroke and, at the first sign of a  
48 stroke, to dial 911, so that we may begin to reduce the  
49 devastating effects of stroke on our population and Floridians  
50 may live stronger, healthier lives.