

By Senator Hukill

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1 Senate Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, the American Stroke Association's "Together to End
25 Stroke" initiative, which begins on May 1 with the American
26 Stroke "Day of Action" and continues year-round, encourages
27 Americans to learn their personal stroke risk, memorize and
28 share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign
29 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.