

By Senator Hukill

8-00150D-16

2016678__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing September 2016 as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" 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 276,000 individuals in the United States are living with a spinal cord injury, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the number of new cases involving spinal cord injury in the United States is about 12,500 each year, not including injuries to those who die at the scene of an accident, and

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

WHEREAS, 82 percent of all spinal cord injuries occur in men, placing men at much greater risk for spinal cord injury, and

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

8-00150D-16

2016678__

30 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals
31 who have a spinal cord injury ranges from approximately \$350,000
32 to \$1.06 million the first year after injury, with an estimated
33 lifetime cost of between approximately \$1.1 million and \$4.7
34 million, depending on the severity of injury and the age of the
35 individual at the time of injury, and

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

41 WHEREAS, scores of national, regional, and local
42 organizations and researchers, doctors, volunteers, and others
43 across this state are dedicated to improving the quality of life
44 of people living with spinal cord injuries and their families,
45 NOW, THEREFORE,

46

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

48

49 That September 2016 is recognized as "Spinal Cord Injury
50 Awareness Month" in Florida.