

By Senator Hukill

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing September 2017 as "Spinal  
3 Cord Injury Awareness Month" 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 emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured  
13 person suffers permanent sensory loss and loss of muscle  
14 control, and

15 WHEREAS, in 2016, an estimated 282,000 individuals in the  
16 United States were living with a spinal cord injury, and

17 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the number of new cases  
18 involving spinal cord injury in the United States is  
19 approximately 17,000 each year, and

20 WHEREAS, the average age at injury for victims is 42 years,  
21 with men accounting for about 80 percent of all new spinal cord  
22 injury cases, and

23 WHEREAS, the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical  
24 Center's 2016 data sheet shows that the four leading causes of  
25 spinal cord injury for both men and women were auto accidents,  
26 falls, acts of violence, and sports-related activities, and

27 WHEREAS, the same report shows that the average annual cost  
28 of care for individuals who had a spinal cord injury ranged from  
29 approximately \$350,000 to \$1.06 million the first year after

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30 injury, with an estimated lifetime cost of between approximately  
31 \$1.1 million and \$4.7 million, depending on the severity of  
32 injury and the age of the individual at the time of injury, and

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

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

43

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

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46 That September 2017 is recognized as "Spinal Cord Injury  
47 Awareness Month" in Florida.