

By Senator Hukill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing September 2018 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, in 2017, an estimated 285,000 individuals in the United States were 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 approximately 17,500 each year, and

WHEREAS, the average age at injury for victims is 42 years, with men accounting for about 81 percent of all new spinal cord injury cases, and

WHEREAS, the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center's 2017 data sheet shows that the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for both men and women were auto accidents, falls, acts of violence, and sports- and recreation-related activities, and

WHEREAS, the same report shows that the average annual cost of care for individuals who had a spinal cord injury ranged

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30 between about \$352,000 and \$1.08 million the first year after  
31 injury, with an estimated lifetime cost of between about \$1.6  
32 million and \$4.8 million, depending on the severity of injury  
33 and the age of the individual at the time of injury, and

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

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

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

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47 That September 2018 is recognized as "Spinal Cord Injury  
48 Awareness Month" in Florida.