

By Senator Burton

12-00543-23

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the urgent need for the expansion of existing comprehensive cardiovascular screening programs and for the creation of new initiatives to allow for earlier identification of patients at risk of cardiovascular events to decrease the number of deaths attributable to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, about 21 million patients were diagnosed with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), making them at risk for a cardiovascular event, and

WHEREAS, ASCVD is linked to the build-up of cholesterol in the arteries, and the risk of associated events can be modified by lowering low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2019 more than 102 million Americans 20 years of age or older had total cholesterol levels that exceeded what is considered the healthy range, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, some 43.1 million Americans were being treated with lipid-lowering therapies to manage cardiovascular risk, and

WHEREAS, that year, only 20 percent of people with ASCVD who were taking statins, one of the leading lipid-lowering therapies, achieved healthy levels of LDL-C, and

WHEREAS, ASCVD has a substantial economic impact on our society, with national expenditures for the prevention and treatment of ASCVD totaling \$126 billion in 2015, a number that

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30 is projected to reach \$309 billion in 2035, and

31 WHEREAS, in Florida, more than 1.65 million adults were  
32 diagnosed and told by a health professional in 2019 that they  
33 had angina or coronary artery disease or had suffered a stroke  
34 or heart attack, all of which are manifestations of ASCVD, and

35 WHEREAS, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data shows that  
36 in that same year, ASCVD was reported as an underlying cause of  
37 death for 34,781 Floridians, and CDC survey data compiled in  
38 that period shows that 814,700 Florida adults reported having  
39 experienced a heart attack and 628,900 reported having  
40 experienced a stroke in their lifetimes, and

41 WHEREAS, one report estimates that Floridians spend \$9.64  
42 billion annually on direct medical expenses for ASCVD care, NOW,  
43 THEREFORE,

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

46  
47 That the extraordinarily high cost to Floridians of  
48 atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is recognized and that,  
49 in collaboration with the Federal Government, as appropriate,  
50 state agencies are encouraged to expand comprehensive  
51 cardiovascular screening programs to allow for earlier  
52 identification of patients at risk for cardiovascular events.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the activities implemented by  
54 the Department of Health and its partners to support the overall  
55 strategies of tracking and monitoring clinical quality measures,  
56 implementing team-based care, and linking community resources  
57 and clinical services are recognized as is the importance of  
58 vigilance in the administration of the department's HeartHealth+

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59 Program to accelerate quality improvements in the care rendered  
60 to patients who are at risk of or who have symptoms of ASCVD so  
61 that screening, treatment, monitoring, and improved health  
62 outcomes are achieved.