

By Senator Rouson

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2024 as "Minority Health Month" in Florida and calling upon all Floridians to get routine cholesterol tests.

WHEREAS, high cholesterol, also called hypercholesterolemia, is the chronic presence of high levels of cholesterol in the blood, which can lead to cardiovascular disease (CVD) and even cardiovascular events like heart attacks and strokes, and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that CVD is the most underappreciated public health crisis of our time, with someone in the United States having a heart attack every 40 seconds despite roughly 80 percent being preventable, and

WHEREAS, although low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), or "bad" cholesterol, is an easily modifiable risk factor for CVD, and lower LDL-C is associated with a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke, more than 80 million American adults have high LDL-C, and

WHEREAS, African-American adults are 30 percent more likely than non-Hispanic white American adults to have high blood pressure, and African-American females are nearly 50 percent more likely to have high blood pressure than non-Hispanic white females, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, African Americans were 30 percent more likely to die from CVD than non-Hispanic white Americans, and

WHEREAS, the AHA indicates that CVD disproportionately impacts minority populations, affecting 52.3 percent of

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30 Hispanic-American males and 42.7 percent of Hispanic-American
31 females over the age of 20, and 60.1 percent of African-American
32 males and 58.8 percent of African-American females over the age
33 of 20, and

34 WHEREAS, the CDC has found that 1 in 3 deaths in the United
35 States are due to CVD, and CVD results in more than \$216 billion
36 in annual health care costs, and

37 WHEREAS, according to a study published in the *Journal of*
38 *the American Medical Association*, nearly 60 percent of middle-
39 aged Hispanic-American adults have high cholesterol, yet only
40 half are aware of it, and

41 WHEREAS, the resources needed to lower the instances of CVD
42 exist, yet 71 percent of hypercholesterolemia patients at high
43 risk of a cardiovascular event never achieve the recommended
44 LDL-C treatment guideline thresholds, and

45 WHEREAS, the LDL-C Action Summit, a consortium of the
46 nation's leading cardiovascular stakeholder groups, seeks to cut
47 cardiovascular events in half by 2030, and

48 WHEREAS, the CDC's Million Hearts program seeks to increase
49 access to, and improve the quality of, cardiovascular care to
50 reduce heart disease, stroke, and death, and

51 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human
52 Services Office of Minority Health recognizes April as National
53 Minority Health Month, and

54 WHEREAS, all Floridians are urged to know their LDL-C
55 level, and

56 WHEREAS, providers are urged to treat all CVD patients in
57 accordance with American College of Cardiology treatment
58 guidelines, and

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59 WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health is urged to
60 update the state's cardiovascular health plan to improve the
61 quality of cardiovascular care, accelerate measures to achieve
62 improved health outcomes for patients with CVD, and develop
63 campaigns to increase cholesterol tests during the month of
64 April, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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68 That April 2024 is recognized as "Minority Health Month" in
69 Florida, and all Floridians are called upon to get routine
70 cholesterol tests.