

By Senator Yarborough

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the fourth Wednesday in February as "Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day" in Florida and encouraging efforts to educate people about hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

WHEREAS, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a chronic cardiac disease involving the thickening of the heart muscle which can potentially lead to debilitating symptoms and serious complications, including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke, and, in rare cases, sudden cardiac death, and

WHEREAS, HCM is the most common inheritable heart disease and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity, with a reported prevalence ranging from 1 in 500 to 1 in 200 in the general population, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 700,000 to 1,650,000 people in the United States have HCM, yet 85 percent of them are projected to remain undiagnosed, and

WHEREAS, HCM shares symptoms with other common cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, such as shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, palpitations, and fainting, making it difficult to distinguish HCM from these other diseases, and

WHEREAS, left untreated, all-cause mortality risk is three to four times higher in patients with HCM than that of the general population, and

WHEREAS, an important first step in receiving an accurate diagnosis of HCM is knowing one's medical history and any signs and symptoms of HCM, and

WHEREAS, to help identify a risk of cardiac disorders, both

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30 genetic and congenital, a health care provider must first
31 conduct a thorough screening with cardiac health questions, and

32 WHEREAS, after such screening, the health care provider may
33 also conduct several tests, including an echocardiogram, a
34 cardiac MRI, or genetic testing, to confirm a family history of
35 HCM, but must examine the heart to diagnose HCM in a patient,
36 and

37 WHEREAS, following a diagnosis of HCM, it is important for
38 patients to work with their health care provider to learn more
39 about their disease and understand different management options,
40 including prescription medicines and surgical treatment options
41 that may help, and

42 WHEREAS, HCM awareness is critically important in improving
43 Floridians' cardiovascular health, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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47 That the fourth Wednesday in February of each year is
48 recognized as "Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day" in
49 Florida.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate supports
51 raising awareness of the consequences of undiagnosed and
52 untreated hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) as a serious public
53 health issue and of the need for individuals to seek appropriate
54 care for HCM.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate shall
56 annually issue a proclamation recognizing the fourth Wednesday
57 in February as "Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day" in
58 Florida and calls upon the people of Florida to observe the day

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59 with appropriate programs and activities.