

HR 8117

2026

House Resolution

A resolution designating October 18-24, 2026, as
"Spina Bifida Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, neural tube defects, including spina bifida and anencephaly, occur early in pregnancy and result in lifelong disability, complex medical needs, and public health costs, and

WHEREAS, folic acid intake before and during early pregnancy is a scientific intervention to prevent neural tube defects, and

WHEREAS, despite national fortification efforts, Florida continues to experience an average of 2.5 cases of spina bifida without anencephalus per 10,000 live births, with some counties reporting higher rates, and

WHEREAS, fortification gaps in commonly consumed foods contribute to ongoing disparities in folic acid intake and birth outcomes, and

WHEREAS, adequate folic acid intake is an important factor for healthy pregnancies and is linked to the prevention of neural tube defects, including spina bifida and anencephaly, and

WHEREAS, Florida's current rate of neural tube defects has an impact on public health, with each affected child often requiring lifelong medical care, assistive services, and family support that significantly impacts quality of life, and

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25 WHEREAS, research indicates that even a small number of
26 neural tube defect cases could yield economic considerations, as
27 the estimated lifetime cost of care for one individual with
28 spina bifida may cost up to \$800,000, much of which is borne by
29 public health programs, NOW, THEREFORE,

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31 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
32 Florida:

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34 That the week of October 18-24, 2026, is designated as
35 "Spina Bifida Awareness Week" in Florida.