

By Senator Hill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 12, 2011, as
"Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, an estimated 10 million people in the United States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed as having fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or cure, and

WHEREAS, it often takes an average of 5 years to receive a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated on the diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia, and

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain disorder that is becoming an increasingly common diagnosis and taking a toll emotionally, financially, and socially on patients and their family, friends, coworkers, and communities, and

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is a life-altering diagnosis, preventing patients from contributing to society at the level they once did because of myriad symptoms that come and go unpredictably and vary in severity, and

WHEREAS, the chronically ill place a larger burden on the health care and insurance systems and on employers due to the costs associated with treatment, medications, and sometimes hospitalizations associated with the disorder, and

WHEREAS, society as a whole is also affected when patients are physically unable to work and must depend on government assistance in order to survive, and

WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to

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30 better support patients who struggle with the challenges of this
31 chronic pain disorder, as well as their families, friends,
32 coworkers, and employers, and

33 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association is a
34 nonprofit charitable organization and the publisher of
35 Fibromyalgia AWARE, the first and only consumer magazine that
36 covers fibromyalgia, and

37 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association, the Fibro
38 Chronic Babes of Jacksonville, and other groups around the
39 country have joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness
40 and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research,
41 and treatment, and

42 WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia Association is urging
43 fibromyalgia patients and their supporters, health care
44 providers, and the public to join its efforts on or around May
45 12, 2011, to walk for a solution in their community or
46 participate in an effort to bring awareness to the far-reaching
47 effects of fibromyalgia, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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51 That May 12, 2011, is recognized as "Fibromyalgia Awareness
52 Day" in Florida, and the Senate urges all Floridians to support
53 the search for a cure and assist individuals and families in
54 dealing with this disorder.