(NP)

By Senator Rich

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34-1091-07
 1
                          Senate Resolution
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           A resolution recognizing November 12-18, 2007,
           as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in
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          Florida.
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           WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two
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   parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and
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           WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information
    superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of
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   neurons that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling
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   many bodily functions, and
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           WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged
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   neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and
    the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and muscle
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    control, and
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           WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 250,000 to
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    400,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a
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    spinal cord injury, and
           WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of
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    spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those
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   who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 11,000
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   new cases each year, and
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           WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries
    is 19 years old, with 30 percent of all injuries occurring
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   between the ages of 17 and 23, and 53 percent of all injuries
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   occurring between the ages of 16 and 30, and
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           WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries
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   occur in men and 20 percent occur in women, and
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           WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury
    for both men and women are auto accidents, falls, gunshot
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   wounds, and recreational sporting activities, and
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2007 (NP) 34-1091-07

1 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for 2 individuals with spinal cord injury ranges from \$250,000 to 3 \$700,000 the first year after injury with an estimated lifetime cost ranging between \$500,000 and \$3 million, 4 depending on the severity of injury, and 5 6 WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, scientists have made 7 major breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged 8 neurons to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility 9 10 and pain management, and WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to 11 12 help fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as 13 well as improving the overall quality of life for individuals with paralysis, and 14 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the 15 week of November 12-18 working with local governments and 16 17 schools to educate Floridians about the causes and treatments 18 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing residents on 19 how to prevent these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE, 20 21 22 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida: 23 That the week of November 12-18, 2007, is recognized as 2.4 "Spinal Cord Awareness Week" in the State of Florida. 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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