

HR 9139

2008

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the week of April 13-19, 2008, as  
3 "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, there has been recent progress in the fight  
6 against cancer, yet many Floridians still suffer unequal rates  
7 of cancer incidence and mortality, and medically underserved  
8 populations have inadequate access to quality cancer prevention,  
9 screening, treatment, and rehabilitation services, and

10 WHEREAS, certain populations of Floridians, such as African  
11 Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and the medically uninsured,  
12 experience higher rates of cancer incidence and death, and

13 WHEREAS, even when poverty levels are accounted for,  
14 African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and  
15 Pacific Islanders have lower 5-year-cancer-survival rates than  
16 whites who are not of Hispanic descent, and

17 WHEREAS, among all racial and ethnic groups, African  
18 Americans experience the highest death rate from all cancers and  
19 the highest death rate from lung, colorectal, prostate, and  
20 cervical cancers, and

21 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos are the fastest growing  
22 segment of the nation's population, and Hispanics are now the  
23 largest minority population in Florida, and

24 WHEREAS, almost 35 percent of the Hispanic and Latino  
25 population have no health care coverage and almost 31 percent  
26 have no access to regular medical care, making Hispanics and  
27 Latinos the most medically underserved population among all  
28 racial and ethnic groups, and

HR 9139

2008

29 WHEREAS, approximately 3.6 million or 20.2 percent of  
30 Florida's 18.1 million citizens have no health insurance  
31 coverage and frequently lack access to quality health care,  
32 including potentially lifesaving services to screen for, detect,  
33 and treat cancer, and

34 WHEREAS, minority cancer awareness initiatives, such as  
35 those promoted by the American Cancer Society and Florida's  
36 recognition of the nationally observed Minority Cancer Awareness  
37 Week, will encourage efforts to reduce ethnic, racial, and  
38 socioeconomic cancer disparities, NOW, THEREFORE,

39

40 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
41 Florida:

42

43 That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes April  
44 13-19, 2008, as "Minority Cancer Awareness Week" in Florida and  
45 urges all Floridians to work with cancer education providers,  
46 such as the American Cancer Society, to increase awareness of  
47 the disparities that minority populations face in the fight  
48 against cancer.