House Resolution

A resolution recognizing Jimbo and Candi Fisher and Kidz1stFund for their efforts to raise awareness of and find a cure for Fanconi anemia.

WHEREAS, Kidz1stFund was established by Jimbo and Candi Fisher after their youngest son, Ethan, was diagnosed with the genetic disease, Fanconi anemia (FA), and

WHEREAS, in establishing Kidz1stFund, Jimbo and Candi Fisher launched their public battle against FA in the hopes of improving treatment options, raising national awareness of the disease, and helping to fund research that will lead to a cure for all who suffer from this disease, and

WHEREAS, FA occurs equally in males and females and all ethnic and racial groups, reducing the average life expectancy of those who have the disease to 24.7 years, although some live longer lives due to the unflagging efforts of the physician research community focused on FA, and

WHEREAS, some patients with FA have no physical manifestation of the disease, while others have a variety of health issues including short stature, deformities of the arms and hands, kidney problems, heart defects, and hearing problems, and

WHEREAS, as the course of the disease progresses, it leads to bone marrow failure that necessitates a bone marrow or cord blood transplant, which increases a patient's chances of developing a variety of cancers at a much earlier age than the general population, and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for the disease itself, but treatments are available for the bone marrow failure associated with FA, and

WHEREAS, FA often is not diagnosed or is misdiagnosed due to the lack of awareness of the disease among physicians and the public, and it is estimated that 1 out of every 131,000 children may be affected by FA, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that children be tested for FA before undergoing bone marrow transplantation for aplastic anemia or other cancers that generally do not develop in young adulthood, as FA patients cannot tolerate standard chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and

WHEREAS, bone marrow transplant is the most common form of treatment for FA, yet, like young Ethan, who depends on a national registry of marrow and umbilical cord blood for a life-saving match, 70 percent of all patients needing a bone marrow transplant do not have a donor in their families, and

WHEREAS, families touched by FA urged Congress to develop the National Marrow Donor Program, a registry that has more than 14 million donors and facilitates matches with unrelated donors, and

WHEREAS, Jimbo and Candi Fisher and Kidz1stFund have expressed their gratitude for the C.W. "Bill" Young Cell Transplantation Program, a federal program that supports bone marrow and cord blood donation and transplantation, and

WHEREAS, FA research has led to a new understanding of how various cancers develop and new ways to treat them, including ovarian, leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma, and

WHEREAS, the entire Fisher family and Kidz1stFund are "OnaKwest For A Cure" and encourage all Floridians to join them in saying, "I fight Fanconi!" NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the members of the House of Representatives recognize the efforts of Jimbo and Candi Fisher and Kidz1stFund to raise awareness of and fight for a cure for Fanconi anemia, and extend best wishes to them and their sons, Ethan and Trey.