

By Senator Montford

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the month of April as
"Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in Florida."

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is the fastest-growing cancer diagnosis in the United States, increasing more than 400 percent in the past 20 years, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, killing one American every 36 minutes, with fewer than one in five patients surviving 5 years, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages, when treatment outcomes are poor, and

WHEREAS, in the United States, esophageal cancer is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is often a silent killer, with patients often unaware that cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain may be a sign of GERD and a reason to discuss screening for the disease with their health care professional, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer may develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular change in the esophagus, resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which can lead to a 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer may be prevented through early

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30 detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be
31 treated with new, curative techniques, and

32 WHEREAS, the Esophageal Cancer Action Network and
33 Esophageal Cancer Support, Inc., are working to improve public
34 awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and actively
35 support progress in the early detection and treatment of
36 esophageal cancer, and

37 WHEREAS, increased awareness of esophageal cancer, coupled
38 with improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment
39 strategies, will enhance the health and well-being of all
40 Americans, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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44 That the month of April is recognized as "Esophageal Cancer
45 Awareness Month" in Florida.