

By Senator Gibson

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 21, 2014, as "Breast Restoration AdVocacy Education (BRAVE) Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, 1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer within her lifetime, and

WHEREAS, in 2011, an estimated 288,130 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in women nationwide, and

WHEREAS, breast surgery for the treatment of cancer results in disfigurement that has a significant impact on a woman's self-esteem and well-being, and

WHEREAS, restoring a breast is an integral part of breast cancer treatment and is of paramount importance in a woman's recovery, and

WHEREAS, under the federal Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, group health plans, insurance companies, and health maintenance organizations must provide coverage for reconstructive services related to a mastectomy, and

WHEREAS, the act requires group health plans, insurance companies, and health maintenance organizations offering mastectomy coverage to provide women with notice of these rights when they enroll, and

WHEREAS, most members of the medical community and the community at large advocate that women with a new diagnosis of breast cancer deserve to know that these rights exist so they can make educated and thoughtful decisions regarding treatment options, and

WHEREAS, preparing a comprehensive breast treatment plan

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30 before beginning treatment has a positive impact on the overall
31 well-being of the patient, and

32 WHEREAS, it is essential that public awareness of the
33 mandate of coverage for reconstructive services related to a
34 mastectomy be elevated, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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38 That March 21, 2014, is recognized as "Breast Restoration
39 AdVocacy Education (BRAVE) Day" in Florida.