

By Senator Berman

31-01244C-21

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 3, 2021, and each May 3 thereafter, as "Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., Founders Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Cancer Act of 1971, the landmark legislation that intensified support for cancer resources, and

WHEREAS, each year, breast and cervical cancer take the lives of more than 3,500 Floridians, and approximately 18,000 women in this state learn they have breast or cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, when cancer is caught in its early stages, survival rates are nearly 99 percent for those diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 95 percent for those diagnosed with cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, in Florida, 31 percent of breast cancer cases and 50 percent of cervical cancer cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage, and

WHEREAS, breast and cervical cancer disproportionately affect women of color, with black women experiencing a mortality rate for breast cancer that is 40 percent higher than that of white women and the highest rates of death from cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, Hispanic women are diagnosed with more late-stage breast cancer than white women and are the most likely to develop cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, the Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., is committed to health equity and building a continuum of care that navigates

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30 women to quality screening, diagnostic, and cancer services, and

31 WHEREAS, in 2020, the Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., opened
32 a Mammography Screening Center, accredited by the American
33 College of Radiology, at a federally qualified health center in
34 Palm Beach County to increase access for black and Hispanic
35 women with limited resources to women's health care screenings,
36 and

37 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of breast and cervical cancer
38 substantially increases the likelihood of survival, yet across
39 the nation tens of millions of women are without health
40 insurance and cannot afford such screening, and

41 WHEREAS, the Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., Mammography
42 Screening Center provides screenings on a sliding-fee basis,
43 with approximately 20 percent of those screenings leading to
44 additional testing, and

45 WHEREAS, 44 percent of women in this state 40 years of age
46 or older did not receive a mammogram in the past year, and 50
47 percent of women 18 years of age or older did not receive a Pap
48 test, and

49 WHEREAS, women should be encouraged to access available,
50 affordable preventive screenings, and the financial barriers and
51 adverse social determinants of health which impede their ability
52 to establish a medical home for well-woman health care exams
53 must be addressed, and

54 WHEREAS, the Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., and its Patient
55 Navigator Network in Palm Beach County, believe that it is of
56 paramount importance to promote statewide breast and cervical
57 cancer early detection screening, with the goal of reducing
58 late-stage diagnoses, which may lead to death and suffering,

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59 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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63 That May 3, 2021, and each May 3 thereafter, is recognized

64 as "Promise Fund of Florida, Inc., Founders Day" in Florida.