

By Senator Harrell

31-00358-23

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2023 as Esophageal
Cancer Awareness Month in Florida.

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is the fastest-increasing cancer
among American men, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is one of the fastest-growing
cancer diagnoses among all Americans, increasing more than 700
percent in recent decades, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer kills one American every 36
minutes each and every day, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of
cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving the
disease five years after being diagnosed, and

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

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer in the United States is most
often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux
disease (GERD), yet many individuals 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 can be a silent killer with
patients often unaware that the heartburn, cough, hoarse voice,
sore throat, chest pain, or other symptoms they suffer can be
signs of GERD and are reasons to discuss screening for
esophageal cancer with their health care provider, and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can develop from GERD when
fluids from the stomach splash into the esophagus, creating

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30 cellular change and resulting in a precancerous condition known
31 as Barrett's esophagus, which can lead to a 30-fold increase in
32 a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer, and

33 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be prevented through early
34 detection of its precursor, Barrett's esophagus, which can be
35 eliminated with curative outpatient techniques, and

36 WHEREAS, esophageal cancer awareness, along with
37 improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment
38 strategies, will enhance the health and well-being of citizens
39 of the State of Florida and all Americans, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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43 That April 2023 is recognized as Esophageal Cancer
44 Awareness Month in Florida.