

HR 9115

2015

## House Resolution

1 A resolution recognizing November 16-22, 2015, as  
2 "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.  
3

4  
5 WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two  
6 parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

7 WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information  
8 superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of neurons  
9 that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many  
10 bodily functions, and

11 WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons  
12 can no longer carry nerve impulses to and from the brain to the  
13 rest of the body, and the injured person suffers a loss of  
14 function such as mobility or feeling, and

15 WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 276,000  
16 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal  
17 cord injury, and

18 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of  
19 spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who  
20 die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 12,500 new  
21 cases each year, and

22 WHEREAS, the average age for spinal cord injury to occur is  
23 42 years old, and

24 WHEREAS, approximately 79 percent of spinal cord injuries  
25 occur in men and nearly 21 percent occur in women, and

26 WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for

HR 9115

2015

27 both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,  
28 and recreational sporting activities, and

29 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals  
30 who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$342,112 to \$1,048,259  
31 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost  
32 ranging between \$1,096,770 and \$4,651,158 depending on the  
33 severity of injury and the age at which the injury occurred, and

34 WHEREAS, researchers continue to make major advances in the  
35 lab in understanding how to decrease damage at the time of  
36 injury and how to improve the quality of life for patients in  
37 areas such as infertility and health management, and

38 WHEREAS, increasing awareness of spinal cord injuries is  
39 vital to improving the overall quality of life for individuals  
40 with paralysis and promotes the ultimate goal of finding a cure  
41 for these injuries, NOW, THEREFORE,

42

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

45

46 That November 16-22, 2015, is recognized as "Spinal Cord  
47 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.