



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 14-22

**Resolution In Support Of Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week In Florida
November 11-17, 2013**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 270,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal cord injury and it is estimated that the annual incidence of spinal cord injury in the United States, excluding those who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 12,000 new cases each year; and

WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19 years old, the median age for spinal cord injuries is 26, and the highest per capita rate of injury occurs between ages 16 and 30; and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries occur in men and nearly 20 percent occur in women; and

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence, and recreational sporting activities; and

WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$334,170 to \$1,023,924 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost ranging between \$1,517,806 and \$4,543,182 depending on the severity of injury; and

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, scientists have made major breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility and pain management; and

WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as well as improving the overall quality of life for individuals with paralysis; and

WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week of November 11-17, 2013, working with local governments and schools to educate Floridians about the causes of and treatment for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing the public on how to prevent these injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The School Board of Broward County, Florida declares its support of

**Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week
November 11-17, 2013**

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida this 20 day of August 2013.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____

Laurie Rich Levinson
Laurie Rich Levinson, Chair

ATTEST: _____

Robert W. Runcie
Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools