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By:  Parker H.R. No. 1272

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) is a life-threatening hereditary genetic condition causing high levels of LDL cholesterol in the blood due to defective LDL receptors in the body that, if left untreated, dramatically increases the risk of premature and aggressive cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in 250 people worldwide, 1.3 million Americans, and 115,000 Texans suffer from FH, though less than 10 percent of those affected are diagnosed prior to an unexpected heart attack or stroke in early adulthood; the condition is inherited from at least one affected parent, but in rare cases where both parents are affected, the disorder is much more severe and carries a much higher risk of heart attack and heart disease, even in childhood; and

WHEREAS, FH can be detected through a physical examination, blood tests, genetic testing, and the assessment of a patient's family medical history; because the condition is caused by defective LDL receptors in the body, cases cannot be treated through lifestyle and dietary changes alone and must be managed with life-preserving cholesterol-lowering drugs; and

WHEREAS, Increased public awareness is needed to help ensure that FH sufferers are diagnosed and treated as early as possible; because FH is 100 percent treatable if caught in the pediatric stage, early detection has the power to save lives and prevent financial losses due to FH for Texas families and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Since learning eight years ago that both she and her son have FH, Wenter Blair Anderson has worked tirelessly in behalf of this goal; she has advocated for state legislation that would require lipid panel screenings for third and fourth graders during well child visits prior to the start of the school year, a practice that would comply with guidelines established by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as with the CDC Office of Public Health Genomics's designation of FH as a Tier 1 issue; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Anderson has also been invited to speak at a number of medical conferences in the U.S. and abroad; a resident and cattle rancher in Ponder, she is a founding board member and former vice president of the FH Foundation, a national organization, as well as a current board member of the National Lipid Association Foundation and a former member of the American Heart Association Texas Legislative Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, By helping to promote education and screenings for FH in all Texans, advocates such as Wenter Blair Anderson are empowering more individuals to take important action to protect their health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby encourage greater awareness of Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) and call on all Texans to learn more about this serious medical condition.