

By: Parker

H.R. No. 1272

R E S O L U T I O N

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

6           WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in 250 people worldwide,  
7 1.3 million Americans, and 115,000 Texans suffer from FH, though  
8 less than 10 percent of those affected are diagnosed prior to an  
9 unexpected heart attack or stroke in early adulthood; the condition  
10 is inherited from at least one affected parent, but in rare cases  
11 where both parents are affected, the disorder is much more severe  
12 and carries a much higher risk of heart attack and heart disease,  
13 even in childhood; and

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

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

1 Texas; and

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

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

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

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