

By Senator Silver

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

A resolution recognizing March 15-21, 1998, as  
Juvenile Justice Week.

WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized a juvenile justice continuum of care which creates a balanced approach between prevention and commitment services through a dedicated partnership that includes the Department of Juvenile Justice, juvenile justice district boards, county councils, sheriffs, police chiefs, public defenders, juvenile judges, school districts, not-for-profit organizations, and private providers of services, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is becoming recognized as a "bellwether" state for its reforms and progress through the delivery of juvenile justice services and programs that do more than simply provide shelter and control youths' behavior, but help delinquents make a successful transition back into their communities, and

WHEREAS, between 1987 and 1997, Florida's 10-to-17-year-old age group increased 19 percent while the volume of cases entering the juvenile justice system increased by 76 percent, and

WHEREAS, there are fewer serious felonies being committed by juveniles than prior to the adoption of the "Juvenile Justice Act" of 1994, despite a growth in the teenage population, and

WHEREAS, stopping juveniles from entering or progressing any farther into the juvenile justice system will require special emphasis in the areas of prevention and intervention and the support of the legislature, law

1 enforcement, other state agencies, businesses, local  
2 communities, and organizations, and

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Justice has made  
4 great strides in promoting local government and community  
5 involvement by creating partnerships to meet local needs as  
6 identified by thousands of local leaders and citizens who  
7 contributed 30,000 volunteer hours in the last year, and

8 WHEREAS, the juvenile justice system, including the  
9 Department of Juvenile Justice and its partners, is committed  
10 to further reducing the overall juvenile crime rate, NOW,  
11 THEREFORE,

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

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15 That the Senate does, hereby, recognize the week of  
16 March 15-21, 1998, as Juvenile Justice Week, and does urge the  
17 support and participation of all citizens in making a  
18 conscious effort to prevent juvenile crime.

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