

By Representatives Bainter and Betancourt

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House Resolution

A resolution designating the week of March  
24-28, 1997, as Juvenile Justice Week.

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Juvenile  
Justice is to provide a full range of programs and services to  
prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Justice has made  
great strides in promoting local government and community  
involvement by creating partnerships focused on delivering  
programs and services specific to district needs involving  
thousands of local leaders and citizens and approximately  
21,600 volunteer hours in the last year, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Justice envisions a  
safer Florida where people experience the benefits of life  
resulting from the reduced risk of harm caused by juvenile  
delinquency, and

WHEREAS, within the 10-year time period between 1986  
and 1996, Florida's 10-year-old to 17-year-old age group  
increased 14 percent while the volume of cases entering the  
juvenile justice system increased by 95 percent, and

WHEREAS, the number of juveniles being referred to the  
department is increasing steadily and youth are beginning to  
be involved in criminal activity at an earlier age, and

WHEREAS, the projected population growth for the  
10-year-old to 17-year-old age group is 21 percent over the  
next 10 years with a proportionate number of youth coming into  
the juvenile justice system, and

WHEREAS, the projected number of delinquency cases  
expected to be received by the department is expected to reach  
nearly 250,000 by the year 2005, and

1           WHEREAS, stopping the younger juveniles from entering  
2 or progressing any further into the juvenile justice system  
3 will require special emphasis in the areas of prevention and  
4 intervention and the support of the Legislature, law  
5 enforcement, other state agencies, businesses, local  
6 communities, and organizations, NOW, THEREFORE,

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8 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
9 Florida:

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11           That the House of Representatives hereby recognizes the  
12 week of March 24-28, 1997, as Juvenile Justice Week and urges  
13 the support and participation of all citizens in making a  
14 conscious effort to prevent juvenile crime.

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