By Representatives K. Pruitt, Wise, Brennan, Fischer, Littlefield and Sindler

House Resolution

A resolution commending RESPECT of Florida.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Florida to encourage and assist persons with severe disabilities to achieve maximum personal independence through useful, productive, and gainful employment, enhance their dignity, and minimize their dependence on public support, and

WHEREAS, more than 65 percent of persons with severe disabilities in the State of Florida are unemployed, and

WHEREAS, RESPECT of Florida has provided thousands of jobs for persons with severe disabilities for over 20 years, and

WHEREAS, RESPECT of Florida creates industries which contribute to the economies of local communities in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, RESPECT of Florida is nationally recognized as a model program for providing employment for persons with severe disabilities, and

WHEREAS, RESPECT of Florida reduces the dependence of persons with severe disabilities on government support in a cost-effective manner, saving Florida taxpayers approximately $1 million a year, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes RESPECT of Florida as a necessary, viable, and valuable means of carrying out its policy of promoting gainful employment for Florida citizens with severe disabilities.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.