

By Representatives Bainter, Betancourt, Putnam, D.
Prewitt, Stafford, Murman, Melvin and Sublette

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House Resolution

A resolution designating the week of March
15-21, 1998, as Juvenile Justice Week.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has authorized a
juvenile justice continuum of care which creates a balanced
approach between prevention and commitment services through a
dedicated partnership including the Department of Juvenile
Justice, juvenile justice district boards and 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 for its reforms and progress through the delivery
of juvenile justice services and programs, which do more than
simply provide shelter and control youths' behavior, but help
delinquents make a successful transition back into their
communities, and

WHEREAS, within the 10-year time period between 1987
and 1997, Florida's 10-year-old 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 further 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, and local
2 communities and organizations, and

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Juvenile Justice has made
4 great strides in promoting community and local government
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 House of Representatives of the State of
14 Florida:

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16 That the House of Representatives hereby designates the
17 week of March 15-21, 1998, as Juvenile Justice Week and urges
18 the support and participation of all citizens in making a
19 conscious effort to prevent juvenile crime.

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