

By Representatives Wise and Bloom

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 30 through April  
3 5, 1998, as Divorce Awareness Week.

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5 WHEREAS, nearly half of all marriages in the United  
6 States now end in divorce, thus breaking the bonds between  
7 husbands and wives, their families, and their children, and  
8 disrupting the emotional, physical, and economic well-being of  
9 far too many citizens, and

10 WHEREAS, with 1.2 million divorces across the nation  
11 each year, the United States possesses the highest divorce  
12 rate in the industrialized world, and

13 WHEREAS, social research has indicated a strong link  
14 between divorce and a variety of serious social ills, and

15 WHEREAS, studies show that women facing divorce are  
16 most anxious about economic security and men facing divorce  
17 are most anxious about emotional security, and that such  
18 anxiety can be detrimental to the adults and to the children  
19 of divorcing parents, and

20 WHEREAS, research has also indicated that only  
21 one-tenth of divorces improve the quality of life of both  
22 parties involved, and

23 WHEREAS, approximately 1 million children each year are  
24 affected by divorce, with the result that fewer than 60  
25 percent of all children today live with their biological  
26 parents, and

27 WHEREAS, roughly half of today's children will endure  
28 the dissolution of their parents' marriage, and most of those  
29 children will live in a single-parent home for at least five  
30 years, and

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1           WHEREAS, the father-child relationship is especially at  
2 risk because of divorce, with limited custody arrangements  
3 frequently resulting in a destruction of the father-child  
4 relationship, further placing children at risk, and

5           WHEREAS, it is estimated that, at any given time,  
6 one-fourth of all noncustodial fathers will have failed to  
7 contact their children even once during the previous five  
8 years, and

9           WHEREAS, studies demonstrate that the lack of strong  
10 two-parent families contributes to problems among teenagers  
11 and that divorce is strongly linked to negative effects on  
12 young people in the areas of school performance, juvenile  
13 crime, physical and mental health, poverty, promiscuity and  
14 illegitimacy, emotional and behavioral problems, and the  
15 propensity for unstable adult relationships, and

16           WHEREAS, when compared to children of families that  
17 have remained intact, children of divorced parents are much  
18 more likely to drop out of school, to engage in premarital  
19 sex, and to become pregnant outside of marriage, and

20           WHEREAS, increasingly, individuals, health care  
21 professionals, and elected officials are recognizing the costs  
22 to society of divorce and are examining ways to develop  
23 workable solutions to marital problems, and

24           WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all sectors of  
25 society to promote the benefits of traditional families as a  
26 means of enriching the lives of adults and providing the  
27 conditions necessary to rear healthy children, and

28           WHEREAS, through public education's treatment of  
29 marriage as the backbone of a stable and virtuous society,  
30 through the development of marriage-friendly economic and  
31 social policies, and through the work of religious

1 institutions in preparing young people for marriage and  
2 counseling married couples, the stability of the traditional  
3 family can be restored, and

4         WHEREAS, by demanding rigorous standards of preparation  
5 for couples planning to marry, and by counseling and pairing  
6 with mentoring couples, those contemplating marriage will be  
7 equipped to understand more fully the practical requirements  
8 for building a stable home and their obligations to children,  
9 and

10         WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Floridians give their  
11 continued support and recognition to the economic,  
12 intellectual, and emotional strength of the two-parent family  
13 and continue to foster public awareness of the effects of  
14 divorce and the resources available to aid broken families at  
15 the state and local levels, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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20         That the House of Representatives of the State of  
21 Florida hereby designates the week of March 30, 1998, through  
22 April 5, 1998, as Divorce Awareness Week.

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