

By Representatives Turnbull, Lawson, Boyd and Westbrook

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House Resolution

A resolution in recognition of the Boys' Choir
of Tallahassee.

WHEREAS, the Florida State University School of Social
Work's Boys' Choir of Tallahassee is a community outreach
program for boys who come from public and private schools
throughout the Tallahassee area, and

WHEREAS, the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee continues to
prepare young men for the 21st century through music,
discipline, and academic excellence, and

WHEREAS, with its motto "No Excuses," the choir
continues to grow in popularity on the local, state, national,
and international level, and

WHEREAS, when the program began in August 1995, the
choir had just 25 members, and

WHEREAS, membership has increased from 40 at the end of
the first year to a current membership of 93, with an age
range of 7 to 18 years, and

WHEREAS, the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee focuses its
efforts on counseling and tutoring choir members with study
hall sessions of three hours three times each week, with choir
members being required to attend four major groups on
self-esteem, reading, juvenile justice, and relationships, and

WHEREAS, choir administrators monitor closely each
member who joins the choir and provides the support needed to
ensure full involvement in all study and counseling sessions,
and

WHEREAS, these sessions have enabled the choir members
to believe in their ability to achieve and excel academically

1 and to prepare them mentally to perform with a positive
2 attitude about themselves, and

3 WHEREAS, the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee has attended
4 numerous performances over the last two years, including a
5 special performance celebrating the legacy of the Reverend Dr.
6 Martin Luther King, Jr., in Coral Springs, Florida, and

7 WHEREAS, the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee has performed
8 at churches, convention halls, nursing homes, and group homes
9 in Miami, White Springs, Jacksonville, and Orlando, Florida,
10 and in Thomasville, Georgia, and

11 WHEREAS, the choir gave the opening performance for
12 Natalie Cole at the Tallahassee Civic Center on April 29,
13 1997, and

14 WHEREAS, but of all its many performances over the past
15 two years, the most notable performances occurred when the
16 Boys' Choir of Tallahassee traveled to Freeport, Bahamas, to
17 participate in the International Music Festivals competition,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, there the choir competed against 165 ensembles
20 from across the world and received the First Place Gold Medal
21 for the Mens' Choir, the First Place Gold Medal for the Choral
22 Division, the First Place Gold Medal Overall Ensemble, and the
23 Grand Sweepstakes Award recognizing the ensemble with the
24 highest score, 98.5 out of a possible 100 points, and

25 WHEREAS, then on January 27, 1998, the Tallahassee
26 Boys' Choir traveled to Washington, D.C., where hours before
27 President Clinton's State of the Union Address they performed
28 at the nation's showcase, the Millinieum Stage at the Kennedy
29 Center, and

30 WHEREAS, these successes have made a tremendous impact
31 on the self-esteem of the choir members, enabling each member

1 to see himself in a larger, world-wide context of personal
2 possibilities and opportunities for the future, and with each
3 performance they give, instilling in choir members the
4 knowledge that they have the ability to achieve and excel,
5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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10 That the House of Representatives of the State of
11 Florida hereby recognizes and commends the Boys' Choir of
12 Tallahassee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
14 be presented to Earl Lee, Jr., director of the Boys' Choir of
15 Tallahassee, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
16 herein.

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