

By Senator Burt

16-2038-99

See HR 9103

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution in recognition of Ronald McDonald
House Charities.

WHEREAS, Ronald McDonald House is a temporary lodging
facility for the families of seriously ill children being
treated at nearby hospitals, and

WHEREAS, the first Ronald McDonald House opened in
Philadelphia in 1974 as the result of the perseverance and
dedication of Fred Hill, then a Philadelphia Eagles football
player, who, when his 3-year-old daughter Kim was diagnosed
with leukemia and underwent treatment at the local children's
hospital, camped out with his wife on hospital chairs and
benches, ate food from vending machines, and did all they
could to keep their daughter from seeing their sadness,
exhaustion, and frustration, and

WHEREAS, all around them, the Hills saw other parents
doing the same thing and learned that many of the families had
traveled great distances to bring their children to the
medical facility, only to find the high cost of hotel rooms
prohibitive, and

WHEREAS, very few institutions at that time provided
sufficient accommodations for such families, and, determined
to help other families experiencing the same emotional and
financial traumas as his own, Hill rallied the support of his
teammates to raise funds to help remedy the situation, and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Eagles organization offered
its support to Dr. Audrey Evans, head of the pediatric
oncology unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, whose
dream for a house to serve as temporary residence for families
of children being treated at her hospital, along with the

1 efforts of Fred Hill and the McDonald's Corporation, led to
2 the first Ronald McDonald House, and

3 WHEREAS, Hill enlisted the help of his teammates and
4 the local McDonald's restaurant franchisees to raise funds to
5 purchase and renovate the first Ronald McDonald House, and

6 WHEREAS, when this unlikely partnership was formed
7 between an NFL team, a children's hospital, and a restaurant
8 chain, none of its members could have imagined that their
9 dream of a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill
10 children would grow to become an international phenomenon, and

11 WHEREAS, by 1979, ten more Ronald McDonald Houses had
12 opened; in the next five years, local communities founded an
13 additional 60 Houses; and 53 more opened in the next five
14 years, and

15 WHEREAS, today, there are 195 Ronald McDonald Houses
16 open in 16 countries, with more than 3,000 bedrooms available
17 for families every night and, by the end of 1999, ten new
18 Houses will open, including the first Houses in Hungary,
19 Malaysia, and Mexico, for a total of 205 Ronald McDonald
20 Houses in 18 countries, and

21 WHEREAS, each Ronald McDonald House is run by a local
22 nonprofit organization comprised of members of the medical
23 community, business and civic leaders, parent/volunteers, and
24 McDonald's owners/operators, supported by nearly 20,000
25 volunteers who annually donate over one million hours of their
26 time, providing the backbone of the program and helping with
27 all aspects of House operations, including fundraising,
28 program development, and services to families, and

29 WHEREAS, Ronald McDonald House is the cornerstone
30 program of Ronald McDonald House Charities, a not-for-profit
31 organization that, to date, through its global network of

1 local charities, has awarded nearly \$200 million in grants to
2 children's programs worldwide, and

3 WHEREAS, since 1974, having served more than two
4 million family members whose children are receiving medical
5 treatment for cancer, heart disease, organ failure, neonatal
6 complications, burns, and major accidents, Ronald McDonald
7 House has created a place where parents can be with families
8 who understand each other's situations and can provide
9 emotional support and, in so doing, has rendered a service of
10 tremendous compassion for millions of people in this nation
11 and abroad, NOW, THEREFORE,

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13 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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15 That the Florida Senate recognizes and commends Ronald
16 McDonald House Charities for a quarter of a century of
17 exceptional humanitarian service.

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