

By Representative Bitner

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 4, 1999, as
3 Associations Advance Florida Day.

4
5 WHEREAS, associations, originating with the guilds of
6 medieval times, are one of the largest and most powerful
7 forces in the United States today, yet are also among the
8 least recognized, and

9 WHEREAS, associations are simply groups of people who
10 find strength in numbers in sharing common interests of
11 industries, professions, charities, hobbies, or philanthropy,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, associations are founded upon the principles
14 of democracy, volunteerism, and common interest that are the
15 heart of the American experience, and

16 WHEREAS, associations by definition exist for the
17 mutual protection and advancement of their members, and

18 WHEREAS, associations are known by a host of names,
19 including federations, alliances, institutes, guilds,
20 societies, foundations, clubs, congresses, coalitions,
21 centers, networks, chambers, bureaus, associations,
22 fraternities, and sororities and, although they come by many
23 names and in many sizes, they are all associations, sharing
24 the twin goals of helping their members and advancing society,
25 and

26 WHEREAS, associations represent an enormous collective
27 presence, their work is woven throughout the fabric of
28 society, and the public has come to depend on the social and
29 economic benefits that associations afford, and

30 WHEREAS, were it not for associations, other
31 institutions as well as the government would face added

1 burdens in the vital activities they perform in setting and
2 enforcing product and safety standards, stimulating and
3 organizing volunteerism, conducting industry research,
4 disseminating valuable information, continuing education,
5 ethics, political campaign funding and political education,
6 and community service, and

7 WHEREAS, the estimate of the direct economic value of
8 associations to the state is over \$1.2 billion each year,
9 including transportation, payroll, printing, office supplies,
10 rent, postage, lodging and facility accommodations, and
11 educational programs, and

12 WHEREAS, the association community in Florida provides
13 over 45,450 jobs, accommodates over 2 million meeting
14 attendees, and spends \$122 million with hotels, and

15 WHEREAS, 70.8 percent of hotel meeting revenue in the
16 state comes from associations, and

17 WHEREAS, associations hold 26,000 events in Florida
18 annually, such as trade shows, committee and board meetings,
19 and conventions and education programs, and

20 WHEREAS, Florida associations pay more than \$77 million
21 in taxes each year, and

22 WHEREAS, Florida associations' staff and members donate
23 over 10 million hours of service to their associations and
24 communities each year, NOW, THEREFORE,

25
26 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
27 Florida:

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29 That the House of Representatives of the State of
30 Florida recognizes March 4, 1999, as Associations Advance
31 Florida Day.