



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 transplants,  
6 neonatal complications, burns, and major accidents, Ronald  
7 McDonald House has created a place where parents can be with  
8 families who understand each other's situations and can  
9 provide emotional support and, in so doing, has rendered a  
10 service of tremendous compassion for millions of people in  
11 this nation and abroad, NOW, 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 of the State of  
17 Florida hereby recognizes and commends Ronald McDonald House  
18 Charities for a quarter of a century of exceptional  
19 humanitarian service.

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