

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution honoring the Hearing Research Institute and recognizing March 13, 2003, as Infant Hearing Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, there are more than 3 million deaf children in this country, and

WHEREAS, more than 570 children are born deaf in this state each year, and

WHEREAS, until recently many of these children did not receive medical treatment or were misdiagnosed as autistic or mentally retarded, and

WHEREAS, section 383.145, Florida Statutes, created by the Florida Legislature in the 2000 Legislative Session, provides for hearing screening of newborn children, and

WHEREAS, section 383.145, Florida Statutes, is projected to save this state an average of \$88,033 per child and, more importantly, save these children from a lifetime of silence and disability, thus enabling them to lead happy and productive lives, and

WHEREAS, the Hearing Research Institute and its medical director, Dr. Robert E. Pickard, were instrumental in the creation of section 383.145, Florida Statutes, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Hearing Research Institute and Dr. Robert E. Pickard are hereby recognized for their dedication and work in providing for newborn hearing screening.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate
2 recognizes March 13, 2003, as Infant Hearing Awareness Day in
3 this state.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
5 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
6 Hearing Research Institute and Dr. Robert E. Pickard as a
7 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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