



HR 9005A

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing "International Literacy Day" in
3 Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, unfortunately, one of our most obscure holidays,
6 International Literacy Day is observed worldwide on September 8
7 in an effort to call attention to the vital importance of
8 literacy in the lives of individuals, families, and nations, and

9 WHEREAS, findings of the State Department of Education
10 suggest that the illiteracy rate in Florida, one of the highest
11 in the nation, is 25 percent, an indication that 25 percent of
12 the state's adults read and write below a fourth-grade level,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, children of illiterate parents are too often low
15 achievers or poor performers in the classroom, conditions that
16 lead to behavioral problems that adversely affect the learning
17 process of an entire class, and

18 WHEREAS, statistics show the likelihood of being on welfare
19 goes up as literacy levels go down, and three out of four food
20 stamp recipients performed in the two lowest literacy levels,
21 thus negatively impacting our economy, and

22 WHEREAS, in order to break the cycle of illiteracy and its
23 tragic effects on the lives of Floridians through improving the
24 educational levels of our children, we must begin with our
25 adults, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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30 That the House of Representatives recognizes September 8,
31 2003, as "International Literacy Day" in Florida and urges all
32 residents of the state to better inform themselves of the
33 negative effects of illiteracy and to make a concerted effort to
34 raise the literacy rate in our state, nation, and world.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that schools, civic organizations,
36 and businesses throughout the state play an active role in the
37 observance of International Literacy Day in Florida.