

HM 1107

2004

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to support the passage of the Calling for 2-1-1
4 Act of 2003.

5
6 WHEREAS, 2-1-1 provides access to more than 2,400 social
7 programs and services in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties,
8 including domestic abuse programs, clothing and furniture needs,
9 youth programs, services for people with disabilities, volunteer
10 opportunities, service for elders, housing assistance, child
11 care, and counseling services, and

12 WHEREAS, since its launch at the Heart of Florida United
13 Way headquarters in July 2003, 2-1-1 has helped more than 40,000
14 Orange, Osceola, and Seminole County residents gain access to
15 vital health and human services, and

16 WHEREAS, 2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for
17 free access to health and human services information and
18 referral and is a universally recognizable number that makes a
19 critical connection between individuals and families seeking
20 services and the appropriate community-based organizations and
21 government agencies, and

22 WHEREAS, as the leading source of information and referrals
23 in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties, 2-1-1 serves as the
24 link between those who need help and the more than 435 local
25 charities that can provide it, encourages prevention of human
26 service emergencies, and fosters self-sufficiency, and

27 WHEREAS, prior to the introduction of the federal Calling
28 for 2-1-1 Act on September 17, 2003, United Way of America
29 worked with Senator Dole (R-NC), Senator Clinton (D-NY),
30 Representative Burr (R-NC), and Representative Eshoo (D-CA) to

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31 draft bipartisan legislation that will authorize a dedicated
 32 federal funding source to support 2-1-1 development nationwide,
 33 and

34 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation's matching funds would
 35 allow the local 2-1-1 to leverage the generous support it has
 36 received from many of Central Florida's leading organizations,
 37 thereby providing better service to local residents, and

38 WHEREAS, examples of improvements that the Calling for 2-1-
 39 1 Act would facilitate include expanding 2-1-1's local service
 40 by implementing a disaster plan, providing three-digit calling
 41 access to cell phone users, increasing call handling capacity,
 42 setting up an overflow system for use during times of crisis,
 43 and increasing the efficiency of operations, NOW, THEREFORE,

44
 45 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46
 47 That the Congress of the United States is requested to pass
 48 the Calling for 2-1-1 Act of 2003.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 50 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 51 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 52 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 53 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.