

By Senator Aronberg

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution commending the achievements of SUPERB and its founders, Jeremy and Sharon Ring, in reducing the incidence of bullying in school communities.

WHEREAS, according to a 2001 survey funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, bullying is widespread in schools throughout the United States, with more than 16 percent of school children saying they were bullied by other students during the 2000-2001 school term, and

WHEREAS, according to the School Psychologist Association, 160,000 American youth skip school every day for the fear they will be victimized by bullies, and

WHEREAS, according to researchers, bullies and their victims are more likely than others to develop depression and suicidal thoughts, and are at a high risk of becoming felons and domestic abusers, and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the National Threat Assessment Center administered by the United States Secret Service, two-thirds of the 41 youth involved in school shootings since 1974 said they had been bullied at school and revenge was one of their motives for harming others, and

WHEREAS, Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve Bullying (SUPERB) is a program founded by Jeremy and Sharon Ring and teaches students, educators, and parents how to work together to eliminate bullying behavior, and

WHEREAS, SUPERB is a program that is embraced by community leaders because it seeks to identify bullies and

1 victims and to change behavioral standards that allow bullying
2 and interpersonal violence to occur in schools, and

3 WHEREAS, in September 2003, SUPERB launched a pilot
4 program in six elementary and middle schools within the
5 Broward County Public School System, the third-largest
6 accredited school system in the nation, and

7 WHEREAS, SUPERB's pilot program is intended to teach
8 children early in life that teasing, tormenting, and
9 subjecting others to violence is not acceptable social
10 behavior, with the goal of eliminating such behavior in
11 schools, reducing the incidence of violent crimes against
12 persons in school communities, and decreasing the adverse
13 consequences suffered by those who engage in or who are
14 victimized by such behavior, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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18 That the Senate commends SUPERB and its founders,
19 Jeremy and Sharon Ring, for their invaluable contributions in
20 designing and implementing a comprehensive program to reduce
21 the incidence of bullying in the schools of this state.

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