

By Senator Posey

24-2113A-04

See HM 1107

1 Senate Memorial No. ____

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

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

13 WHEREAS, more than 70 percent of Florida residents have
14 access to 2-1-1 in 33 counties and since its launch at the
15 Heart of Florida United Way headquarters in July 2003, 2-1-1
16 has helped more than 40,000 Orange, Osceola, and Seminole
17 County residents gain access to vital health and human
18 services, and

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

25 WHEREAS, as the leading source of information and
26 referrals in the State of Florida and in Orange, Osceola, and
27 Seminole Counties, 2-1-1 serves as the link between those who
28 need help and thousands of local charities that can provide
29 it, encourages prevention of human service emergencies, and
30 fosters self-sufficiency, and

31

1 WHEREAS, prior to the introduction of the federal
2 Calling for 2-1-1 Act on September 17, 2003, United Way of
3 America worked with Senator Dole (R-NC), Senator Clinton
4 (D-NY), Representative Burr (R-NC), and Representative Eshoo
5 (D-CA) to draft bipartisan legislation that will authorize a
6 dedicated federal funding source to support 2-1-1 development
7 nationwide, and

8 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation's matching funds
9 would allow the local 2-1-1 to leverage the generous support
10 it has received from many of Central Florida's leading
11 organizations, thereby providing better service to local
12 residents, and

13 WHEREAS, examples of improvements that the Calling for
14 2-1-1 Act would facilitate include expanding 2-1-1's local
15 service by implementing a disaster plan, providing three-digit
16 calling access to cell phone users, increasing call handling
17 capacity, setting up an overflow system for use during times
18 of crisis, and increasing the efficiency of operations, NOW,
19 THEREFORE,

20
21 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22
23 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
24 pass the Calling for 2-1-1 Act of 2003.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
26 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
27 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
28 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
29 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

30
31