

HR 9003

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 24, 2005, as "A Safe Haven
3 for Newborns Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, across the United States, newborn babies are being
6 abandoned in canals, rivers, toilets, dumpsters, bags, and
7 similar places by parents who believe they have no other
8 alternative; and many of these children do not survive, and

9 WHEREAS, although the 2000 Legislature passed into law
10 section 383.50, Florida Statutes, which provides that a parent
11 may leave an unharmed child approximately three days old or
12 younger at a hospital, emergency medical services station, or
13 fire station with the right to remain anonymous and free from
14 fear of prosecution, it seemed apparent that few knew of its
15 existence, and

16 WHEREAS, sensing a need to make the state's residents aware
17 of the provisions of the law, the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation
18 was established and "A Safe Haven for Newborns" was founded, its
19 purpose and continuing mission being to save the lives of
20 newborns in danger of abandonment and to help preserve the
21 health and future of their mothers, and

22 WHEREAS, an excellent example of private initiative and
23 "partnering" with the public sector, the Silverio Foundation
24 maintains a multilingual 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week help line;
25 makes available materials in English, Spanish, and Creole;
26 sponsors public service media announcements; posts "A Safe Haven
27 for Newborns" signs at all staffed fire rescue and emergency
28 medical services stations in the state; and works with hospitals
29 and social services agencies throughout the state, and

HR 9003

2005

30 WHEREAS, to date, 21 young lives have been rescued through
31 the efforts of this organization, and it is only fitting that
32 the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation's "A Safe Haven for Newborns"
33 be recognized for its dedication and commitment to the youngest,
34 most vulnerable of Florida's citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

35

36 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
37 Florida:

38

39 That the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation is commended for its
40 excellent work in saving and preserving the lives of the state's
41 newborn babies and their mothers, and, in support of the worthy
42 efforts of this organization, March 24, 2005, is designated "A
43 Safe Haven for Newborns Day" in Florida.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
45 presented to Nick Silciro, Founder of the Gloria M. Silverio
46 Foundation "A Safe Haven for Newborns," as a tangible token of
47 the sentiments expressed herein.