

By Senator Fasano

11-132-07

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing October 1-15, 2007, as "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" and encouraging public schools and universities to provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census, in 2000, this state had a population of 3,274,566 people with disabilities, who comprised a large percentage of the total population of 15,982,378 persons, and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that in 2002 the K-12 education system in this state included 379,609 students with disabilities, or approximately 20 percent of the student body, and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is founded on four principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, research has shown that students with disabilities have a harder time fitting in with their peers, making friends, and becoming involved in school and community-based activities and clubs, and

WHEREAS, to ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities into society, it is necessary to expand the public's knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the history of disabilities and the disability rights movement, and

WHEREAS, a key method of promoting such understanding is for the public schools to provide instruction in disability

1 | history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights
2 | movement, through the school curriculum, school assemblies,
3 | and other school activities, and

4 | WHEREAS, it is desirable that state postsecondary
5 | institutions promote activities that provide education,
6 | awareness, and understanding regarding people with
7 | disabilities, and

8 | WHEREAS, the Legislature also encourages cooperation
9 | between educational institutions and community-based
10 | organizations, including centers for independent living, youth
11 | information centers, and parent training and information
12 | centers, as a way to promote better treatment and fairer
13 | hiring practices for people with disabilities, NOW, THEREFORE,
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15 | Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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17 | That the Florida Senate urges the public schools to
18 | provide intensive instruction on disability history, people
19 | with disabilities, and the disability rights movement,
20 | especially during the first 2 weeks of October, and
21 | periodically throughout the school year, and encourages
22 | postsecondary institutions to conduct and promote educational
23 | activities on those subjects.

24 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that October 1-15, 2007, be
25 | recognized as "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" in this
26 | state.
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