

By Senator Fasano

11-00126-08

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing October 1-15, 2008, as
3 "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" and encouraging
4 public schools and universities to provide instruction on
5 disability history, people with disabilities, and the
6 disability rights movement.

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, a key method of promoting such understanding is the
29 provision by the public schools of instruction concerning

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30 | disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability
31 | rights movement through the school curriculum, school assemblies,
32 | and other school activities, and

33 | WHEREAS, it is desirable that state postsecondary
34 | institutions promote activities that provide education,
35 | awareness, and understanding regarding people with disabilities,
36 | and

37 | WHEREAS, the Legislature also encourages cooperation between
38 | educational institutions and community-based organizations,
39 | including centers for independent living, youth information
40 | centers, and parent training and information centers, as a way to
41 | promote better treatment and fairer hiring practices for people
42 | with disabilities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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44 | Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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46 | That the Florida Senate urges the public schools to provide
47 | intensive instruction on disability history, people with
48 | disabilities, and the disability rights movement, especially
49 | during the first 2 weeks of October, and periodically throughout
50 | the school year, and encourages postsecondary institutions to
51 | conduct and promote educational activities concerning those
52 | subjects.

53 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that October 1-15, 2008, be
54 | recognized as "Disability History and Awareness Weeks" in this
55 | state.