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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of international education to Florida's economy, competitiveness, and education system and designating November 17-21, 2008, as "International Education Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, in an ever more globalized world, it is essential to better prepare Floridians to work and interact effectively, and

WHEREAS, efforts in support of international education will make a vital contribution to Florida's ability to compete with other areas in the United States and in the world economy, and

WHEREAS, by promoting a global perspective, Florida's colleges and universities will greatly enhance and enrich the educational experience and environment of their students, faculty, and staff, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the State University
System has endorsed a proposal to develop a Florida Initiative
for Global Education as a statewide effort to promote greater
foreign language competency and increased opportunities to study
abroad for Florida college and university students, and

WHEREAS, the economy of Florida is inextricably tied to the rest of the world, and state economic development depends upon a deliberate strategic development plan that includes recognition of the role of international education in all of its facets, and

WHEREAS, through their delivery of education, research, and training programs overseas and the enrollment of international students on their campuses, Florida's colleges and universities

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have made higher education a critical component of the state's service export economy, and

WHEREAS, international students studying in Florida contribute approximately \$680,000,000 annually to the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, participation in International Education Week, a joint initiative of the United States Department of State and the United States Department of Education, is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the House of Representatives recognizes the importance of international education to Florida's economy, competitiveness, and education system and designates November 17-21, 2008, as "International Education Week" in Florida.