

HR 9153

2008

1 House Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, a key method of promoting such understanding is
30 the provision by the elementary and secondary schools of
31 instruction concerning disability history, people with
32 disabilities, and the disability rights movement through the
33 school curriculum, school assemblies, and other school
34 activities, and

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

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

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

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48 That the Florida House of Representatives urges all
49 elementary and secondary schools to provide instruction on
50 disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability
51 rights movement, with special emphasis during the first 2 weeks
52 of October, and periodically throughout the school year, and
53 encourages postsecondary institutions to conduct and promote
54 educational activities concerning these subjects.

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