

By Senator Haridopolos

26-02434A-09

20092722__

Senate Resolution

A resolution acknowledging the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Resident Access Grant Program.

WHEREAS, Florida's 28 independent colleges and universities have long provided educational, cultural, scholarly, and scientific enrichment to Floridians, and

WHEREAS, independent colleges and universities are an integral component of the higher education system of the state, with tens of thousands of residents choosing this form of education annually, and

WHEREAS, a majority of students enrolled in seven of the 28 independent colleges and universities are minorities, with minority enrollment systemwide at 43 percent, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature created the Florida Resident Access Grant Program (FRAG) as a means of equalizing tuition for Florida residents attending independent institutions full-time, and

WHEREAS, the FRAG Program has assisted hundreds of thousands of Floridians in earning college degrees, and

WHEREAS, more than one-half of recipients of a Florida Resident Access Grant are pursuing degrees in areas of critical need for the Florida workforce, including nursing and allied health fields, teacher education, engineering, computer science, and biomedical professions, and

WHEREAS, the FRAG Program provides access to independent colleges and universities to tens of thousands of students every year, nearly one-half of them the first in their families to attend college and more than one-third coming from families

26-02434A-09

20092722

30 having annual incomes of less than \$60,000, and

31 WHEREAS, the business community as well as individuals in
32 this state continue to give generously to the FRAG Program, and

33 WHEREAS, the stability and significance of the Florida
34 Resident Access Grant Program is a primary catalyst for the
35 creation of additional capacity in the state's independent
36 colleges and universities, which is a critical component of
37 expanding opportunity for Florida students, and

38 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of all baccalaureate and higher
39 degrees in Florida are awarded by independent colleges and
40 universities, which demonstrates that they add greatly to the
41 economic vitality of Florida, and

42 WHEREAS, a strong and viable independent educational system
43 reduces the tax burden on Florida's residents and is vital to
44 this state's economic well-being, and

45 WHEREAS, the Florida Resident Access Grant Program has
46 demonstrated a high-yield return on investment of state funds,
47 NOW, THEREFORE,

48

49 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

50

51 That the Senate recognizes the 30th Anniversary of the
52 Florida Resident Access Grant Program and wholeheartedly
53 commends and supports the independent colleges and universities
54 of Florida for their significant contribution to all Floridians.