

HR 9063

2009

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating May 2009 as "A Safe Haven for
3 Newborns Month" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, across the United States, newborn babies are being
6 abandoned in canals, rivers, toilets, dumpsters, bags, and
7 similar places by parents who believe they have no other
8 alternative, and many of these children do not survive, and

9 WHEREAS, although the 2000 Legislature passed into law
10 section 383.50, Florida Statutes, which allows a parent to leave
11 a newborn baby at a hospital, emergency medical services
12 station, or fire station anonymously and without fear of
13 prosecution, it seemed apparent that few knew of its existence,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, sensing a need to make the state's residents aware
16 of the provisions of the law, the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation
17 was established and "A Safe Haven for Newborns" was founded,
18 their purpose and continuing mission being to save the lives of
19 newborns in danger of abandonment and to help preserve the
20 health and future of their mothers, and

21 WHEREAS, an excellent example of private initiative and
22 "partnering" with the public sector, the Gloria M. Silverio
23 Foundation maintains a multilingual, 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week
24 help line; makes available materials in English, Spanish, and
25 Creole; sponsors public service media announcements; posts "A
26 Safe Haven for Newborns" signs at all staffed fire rescue
27 stations, emergency medical services stations, and hospitals in

HR 9063

2009

28 | the state; and works with hospitals and social services agencies
29 | throughout the state, and

30 | WHEREAS, to date, 124 young lives have been saved through
31 | the efforts of this organization, and it is only fitting that
32 | the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation's "A Safe Haven for Newborns"
33 | be recognized for its dedication and commitment to the youngest,
34 | most vulnerable of Florida's citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

35 |

36 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
37 | Florida:

38 |

39 | That the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation is commended for its
40 | excellent work in saving and preserving the lives of the state's
41 | newborn babies and their mothers, and, in support of the worthy
42 | efforts of this organization, May 2009 is designated "A Safe
43 | Haven for Newborns Month" in Florida.

44 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
45 | presented to Nick Silverio, founder of the Gloria M. Silverio
46 | Foundation's "A Safe Haven for Newborns," as a tangible token of
47 | the sentiments expressed herein.