

HR 9073

2009

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution acknowledging the 30th anniversary of the  
3 Florida Resident Access Grant.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the 28 independent, nonprofit educational  
6 institutions that comprise the Independent Colleges and  
7 Universities of Florida (ICUF) have long provided educational,  
8 cultural, scholarly, and scientific enrichment for Florida, and

9 WHEREAS, independent colleges and universities are an  
10 integral component of the state's higher education system and  
11 tens of thousands of residents annually choose this form of  
12 education, and

13 WHEREAS, 30 years ago the Legislature created a tuition  
14 equalization grant, renamed the Florida Resident Access Grant  
15 (FRAG) in 1994, for Florida residents attending independent  
16 institutions, and

17 WHEREAS, the FRAG has enabled hundreds of thousands of  
18 Floridians to earn college degrees, with almost one-half of the  
19 recipients of the FRAG being the first in their families to  
20 attend college and more than one-third being from families with  
21 incomes under \$60,000 annually, and

22 WHEREAS, more than one-half of the current recipients of  
23 the FRAG are pursuing degrees in nursing and allied health  
24 fields, teacher education, engineering, computer science, and  
25 biomedical professions, all critical needs for the Florida  
26 workforce, and

27 WHEREAS, with an enrollment of over 50 percent minority  
28 students in 7 of the 28 institutions and an enrollment of 43

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29 | percent minority students systemwide, ICUF institutions are  
 30 | expanding opportunity for generations of Florida residents, and

31 |       WHEREAS, a stable and significant FRAG is a primary  
 32 | catalyst for the creation of additional student capacity in  
 33 | independent colleges and universities, a critical component for  
 34 | expanding opportunity for Florida residents, and

35 |       WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for Florida residents  
 36 | to receive degrees at ICUF institutions, which produce one-third  
 37 | of all baccalaureate and higher degrees awarded in the state,  
 38 | thereby adding to the economic vitality of Florida, and

39 |       WHEREAS, a strong and viable independent educational system  
 40 | reduces the tax burden on the citizens of the state and is vital  
 41 | to the economic well-being of the state, and

42 |       WHEREAS, the FRAG has demonstrated a high-yield return on  
 43 | the investment of state revenue, NOW, THEREFORE,

44 |  
 45 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 46 | Florida:

47 |  
 48 |       That the House of Representatives recognizes the 30th  
 49 | anniversary of the Florida Resident Access Grant and  
 50 | wholeheartedly commends and supports the Independent Colleges  
 51 | and Universities of Florida and its institutions for their  
 52 | significant contributions to the State of Florida and its  
 53 | citizens and economy.