

HR 9079

2009

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2009 as "Fair Housing  
3 Month."

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5 WHEREAS, the federal Fair Housing Act prohibits  
6 discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing  
7 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap,  
8 or familial status, and

9 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Fair  
10 Housing Act in 1983 to ensure that the state makes every effort  
11 to provide fair housing opportunities to all persons and to  
12 prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of housing due to  
13 race, color, national origin, gender, or religion, and

14 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature subsequently amended the  
15 Florida Fair Housing Act to expand the prohibition on  
16 discrimination to include familial status and persons with  
17 disabilities, and

18 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
19 Housing and Urban Development, one out of every four or five  
20 Hispanic, African-American, Asian, or Native American persons  
21 still faces discrimination when attempting to rent, purchase, or  
22 finance housing, and

23 WHEREAS, low-income and disabled persons and the elderly  
24 who attempt to purchase, refinance, or secure a reverse mortgage  
25 are targets for predatory lending and fraudulent loan practices,  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of  
28 Housing and Urban Development has proclaimed April 2009 as

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29 "National Fair Housing Month" and, further, has asked  
30 communities to remember the past and celebrate 41 years of  
31 housing successes and march towards the future to ensure justice  
32 and housing opportunities for all, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida has one of the highest foreclosure rates  
34 in the country, resulting in an alarming number of residents  
35 losing their homes and being forced to find alternative housing,  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, investigations conducted by the Florida Commission  
38 on Human Relations found that, in 2007-2008, housing  
39 discrimination on the basis of disability, race, familial  
40 status, and national origin continued to occur in Florida, and

41 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations  
42 continues to expand its efforts to reach out to and educate  
43 members of the housing industry on fair housing laws and on  
44 industry responsibilities in providing fair housing  
45 opportunities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 That April 2009 is recognized as "Fair Housing Month" in  
51 the State of Florida, and the Florida House of Representatives  
52 calls upon state and local government leaders, communities  
53 within the state, and all Floridians to observe Fair Housing  
54 Month through activities and ceremonies that celebrate  
55 historical and future efforts to ensure fair and equal access to  
56 housing for all people in this state.