

HM 1199

2010

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to facilitate any commercial, civil, military,
4 and academic endeavors necessary to maintain the nation's
5 only manned spaceflight operations workforce.
6

7 WHEREAS, the final mission of the Apollo space program was
8 launched on July 15, 1975, from the John F. Kennedy Space Center
9 in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and

10 WHEREAS, the first orbital flight of the Space Shuttle was
11 launched on April 12, 1981, from the Kennedy Space Center, and

12 WHEREAS, the nation's prowess in space suffered during this
13 interim between the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs, and

14 WHEREAS, the United States did not adequately facilitate
15 alternate commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavors,
16 including, but not limited to, job training and placement, in
17 order to preserve the skills of the Apollo program's workforce
18 for use on the Space Shuttle program, and

19 WHEREAS, the highly skilled Apollo program's workforce
20 became unemployed and, as a result, was forced to disperse to
21 obtain employment elsewhere, and

22 WHEREAS, the Space Shuttle program consequently had no
23 alternative except to establish, at great expense, a new and
24 untested workforce for Space Shuttle flight operations, and

25 WHEREAS, the final mission of the Space Shuttle program is
26 scheduled for launch on September 16, 2010, and

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27 WHEREAS, the first manned flight of the Orion spacecraft,
 28 the planned successor of the Space Shuttle, was not scheduled
 29 for launch until 2015, and

30 WHEREAS, on February 1, 2010, the President of the United
 31 States announced a proposal to cancel funding for the
 32 Constellation program, including the Orion spacecraft, adding
 33 uncertainty to the future of manned American spaceflight, and

34 WHEREAS, the United States should not repeat the mistakes
 35 it made at the end of the Apollo program, and

36 WHEREAS, this state remains home to the nation's only
 37 manned spaceflight workforce, NOW, THEREFORE,

38
 39 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 41 That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to
 42 facilitate any commercial, civil, military, and academic
 43 endeavors, including, but not limited to, job training and
 44 placement, that are necessary to maintain the nation's highly
 45 skilled manned spaceflight operations workforce who reside in
 46 this state.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 48 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 49 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 50 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 51 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.