

HM 1349

2010

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to support the opportunity to provide increased
4 access to community-based services for individuals with
5 developmental disabilities.

6
7 WHEREAS, federal and state financial assistance is provided
8 for services under the Medicaid program for individuals with
9 developmental disabilities, and

10 WHEREAS, community-based services are a valuable cost-
11 effective alternative to institutional care because such
12 services benefit both the individual receiving the services and
13 the federal and state programs that fund the services, and

14 WHEREAS, a study by the National Conference of State
15 Legislatures and other studies document that individuals with
16 developmental disabilities who receive services in their homes
17 or other community settings experience improved outcomes,
18 quality of care, and quality of life in contrast to individuals
19 with developmental disabilities who receive care in
20 institutional settings, and

21 WHEREAS, publicly funded programs that cover community-
22 based services for individuals with developmental disabilities
23 are limited, and

24 WHEREAS, federal and state programs provide limited support
25 for community-based services that serve as an alternative to
26 institutional care for individuals with developmental
27 disabilities, and

HM 1349

2010

28 WHEREAS, the years after a student with a developmental
 29 disability leaves the educational system are critical for
 30 learning and transition, and

31 WHEREAS, the need to allow the opportunity to provide
 32 increased access to community-based services at the discretion
 33 of the developmentally disabled individual's family is
 34 recognized, and

35 WHEREAS, access to community-based services, regardless of
 36 a family's income, insurance coverage, or Medicaid eligibility,
 37 is recognized as essential in improving the quality of life for
 38 individuals with developmental disabilities, NOW, THEREFORE,

39

40 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41

42 That the Congress of the United States is urged to:

43 (1) Support the "Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of
 44 2009" or the "ABLE Act of 2009," as reflected in H.R. 1205 and
 45 S. 493; and

46 (2) Support ABLE accounts for individuals with
 47 developmental disabilities to assist them in paying certain
 48 expenses, including expenses for education, housing,
 49 transportation, employment support, medical care, and certain
 50 life necessities.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 52 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 53 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 54 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 55 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.