

CS/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, studies suggest that individuals with  
15 developmental disabilities who receive services in their homes  
16 or other community settings experience improved outcomes,  
17 quality of care, and quality of life in contrast to individuals  
18 with developmental disabilities who receive care in  
19 institutional settings, and

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

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

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

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

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

38

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

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

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

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

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