

By Senator Altman

24-01516-10

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to support any commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavor, including job training and placement, which will enable the United States space program to maintain, to the greatest extent possible, our nation's only human space flight workforce.

WHEREAS, the space shuttle first began flying from Florida in 1981, and

WHEREAS, Florida is the home of the nation's only human space flight workforce, and

WHEREAS, our nation's prowess in space suffered when the Apollo program was abruptly terminated, followed by a lengthy gap in time before the onset of the Space Shuttle Program, and

WHEREAS, this nation did not sufficiently facilitate alternate commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavors, including job training and placement, in Florida to preserve the skills of the Apollo workforce so that they could be put to use on the Space Shuttle Program, and

WHEREAS, the unemployed, highly skilled Apollo workforce was forced to dissipate and find employment elsewhere, and

WHEREAS, the Space Shuttle Program was forced, in large part and at great expense, to use a new and untested workforce for space shuttle launch operations, and

WHEREAS, the Space Shuttle Program is slated to retire in 2010 and there is currently a gap of at least 5 years between space shuttle retirement and the next American human space

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30 flight, and

31 WHEREAS, the United States should not repeat the mistakes
32 made at the end of the Apollo program, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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36 That the United States Congress is urged to facilitate any
37 commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavor, including job
38 training and placement, which will maintain this nation's highly
39 skilled human space flight operations workforce, which currently
40 resides in Florida.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
42 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
43 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
44 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
45 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.