

HR 9033

2010

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 2010 as Safe Haven for
3 Newborns Month in Florida and commending the Gloria M.
4 Silverio Foundation for its efforts on behalf of newborns.

5
6 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature adopted legislation in
7 2000 establishing safe haven facilities where parents could
8 anonymously place newborn infants, who might otherwise be
9 abandoned, without fear of prosecution, and

10 WHEREAS, in memory of his wife, Gloria, Nick Silverio
11 established "A Safe Haven For Newborns" in 2001, a project of
12 the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation, in response to the tragedy of
13 newborn abandonment in Florida, and

14 WHEREAS, the project that began in Miami has now spread
15 through a grassroots effort to reach all 67 counties in Florida,
16 partnering with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, emergency
17 medical services, hospitals, and other organizations and
18 agencies in the state, to raise awareness and provide responses
19 to mothers who ask where they might place their infants, and

20 WHEREAS, by establishing a multilingual referral help line
21 that is constantly staffed with a network of volunteers and
22 providing public service announcements and a publicly accessible
23 website of information, "A Safe Haven for Newborns" has become
24 the primary information resource in Florida alerting parents as
25 to how they can anonymously and safely place their newborn
26 infants, thereby saving lives, and

27 WHEREAS, since the inception of the safe haven law in 2000,
28 at least 143 newborns have been placed in safe haven facilities,

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29 | due in large measure to the leadership of the Gloria M. Silverio
30 | Foundation, and

31 | WHEREAS, the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation, in creating "A
32 | Safe Haven for Newborns," has performed a unique service to
33 | communities in this state and provided vital leadership for
34 | others in our society who seek remediation to the tragedy of
35 | infant abandonment, NOW, THEREFORE,

36 |

37 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 | Florida:

39 |

40 | That February 2010 is recognized as "Safe Haven for
41 | Newborns Month" in Florida and the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation
42 | is commended for its efforts to protect newborns through safe
43 | haven facilities and support.

44 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
45 | presented to Nick E. Silverio of "A Safe Haven for Newborns" as
46 | a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.