

HR 9109

2011

## House Resolution

A resolution designating April 2011 as "Fair Housing Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Fair Housing Act to ensure that the state make every effort to provide fair housing to all Florida residents and to prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of any dwelling because of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion, and the act was amended in 1988 to include the bases of disability and familial status, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has proclaimed April as "National Fair Housing Month," launching campaigns to commemorate the historical passage of this major legislation, increase the public's awareness of the many protections of the Civil Rights Act, and encourage communities to remember and celebrate 43 years of housing successes, and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report from the federal Fair Housing Administration, Florida continues to experience a catastrophic rate of home foreclosures and, as of February 2011, has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation, due in part to predatory lending practices from 2004 through 2006 that led to

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29 Florida's ethnic and racial minorities accounting for more than  
30 half of all subprime mortgage loans in the state, and

31 WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, as a  
32 result of its statutorily authorized, thorough, and timely  
33 investigations of housing discrimination complaints, has found  
34 that disability, race, national origin, and sex constituted the  
35 top four bases for housing discrimination cases closed in fiscal  
36 year 2009-2010, and

37 WHEREAS, amid the current housing crisis, the Florida  
38 Commission on Human Relations continually works to expand its  
39 outreach and educational efforts to inform members of the  
40 housing industry of their responsibilities relating to fair  
41 housing laws and to increase community partnerships to ensure  
42 that Florida residents are afforded every opportunity for fair  
43 treatment and equal access to adequate, affordable housing  
44 without undue discrimination, prejudice, or barriers, NOW,  
45 THEREFORE,

46  
47 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
48 Florida:

49  
50 That April 2011 is recognized as "Fair Housing Month" in  
51 the State of Florida and that state and local governmental  
52 leaders, along with communities and individual residents, are  
53 encouraged to observe Fair Housing Month through ceremonies and  
54 activities celebrating historical and future efforts to ensure  
55 fair and equal access to housing for all Florida residents.