

By Senator Rouson

16-02683-26

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the legacy of the Juvenile
Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

WHEREAS, in the early 1940s, there were few alternative
paths for troubled or delinquent children in Pinellas County
other than incarceration, which was an issue recognized by
juvenile court Judge Lincoln Bogue, and

WHEREAS, in 1944, Judge Lincoln Bogue sought out solutions
to the problem of at-risk children by working with a community
advisory group to pursue funding from the Pinellas County
Commission, and

WHEREAS, Attorney Leonard Cooperman drafted legislation
supported by the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation to
create an independent special taxing district governed by an
autonomous board to guard the rights and needs of children, and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry Baynard sponsored Senate Bill 618,
which passed on May 21, 1945, and its House companion was
sponsored by Representative S. Henry Harris and passed the House
of Representatives on May 24, 1945, and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 1946, Pinellas County citizens
ratified the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) Act, creating the
nation's first independent board dedicated to improving the
lives and futures of children, and

WHEREAS, in 1947, the JWB, chaired by Mailande Holland
Barton, adopted its first budget and distributed funds to three
agencies that served approximately 1,500 children, and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the JWB served a total of 83,622 children
through investments in 98 quality programs with 51 nonprofit

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30 agencies, providing prevention and early intervention services
31 to assist children at all stages of life, from cradle to career,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the JWB also serves as a convener, forging
34 partnerships and leading initiatives to prevent needless
35 childhood deaths, nurture early childhood development, champion
36 children's mental health, promote grade-level reading, and fight
37 childhood hunger, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 That the Juvenile Welfare Board is recognized for its 80
42 year legacy of prioritizing children and for its commendable
43 service to the citizens of Pinellas County and Florida.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
45 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Juvenile
46 Welfare Board of Pinellas County as a tangible token of the
47 sentiments of the Florida Senate.