

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 Boque, 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,

38  
39 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

40  
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.