

HR 8119

2026

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution congratulating the Juvenile Welfare Board
3 of Pinellas County on the occasion of its 80th
4 anniversary.

5
6 WHEREAS, in the early 1940s, few alternatives existed for
7 troubled and dependent children in Pinellas County other than
8 adult jail, a need recognized and championed by Juvenile Court
9 Judge Lincoln Bogue, and

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

14 WHEREAS, Senator Henry Baynard sponsored Senate Bill 618,
15 which was passed by the Senate on May 21, 1945, and

16 WHEREAS, the bill was sponsored by Representative S. Henry
17 Harris in the House Chamber, where it was passed on May 24,
18 1945, and

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

23 WHEREAS, in 1947, the Juvenile Welfare Board, chaired by
24 Mailande Holland Barton, adopted its first budget, distributing
25 funds to three agencies that served about 1,500 children, and

HR 8119

2026

26 WHEREAS, last year, the Juvenile Welfare Board served
27 83,622 children through investments in 98 quality programs with
28 51 agencies that provided prevention and early intervention
29 services for the life of the child, from cradle to career, and

30 WHEREAS, the Juvenile Welfare Board also serves as a
31 convener, forging partnerships and leading initiatives to
32 prevent needless childhood deaths, nurture early childhood
33 development, champion children's mental health, promote grade-
34 level reading, and fight childhood hunger, NOW, THEREFORE,

35
36 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
37 Florida:

38
39 That the House of Representatives expresses its
40 congratulations to the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
41 for 80 years of putting children first and for its commendable
42 service to the residents of Pinellas County and Florida.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
44 presented to the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County as a
45 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.