1	House Resolution
2	A resolution honoring the memory of Jonathon
3	Ryan Atchison.
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5	WHEREAS, Jonathon Ryan Atchison was a healthy
6	6-year-old until he contracted and died from a common
7	childhood illness: chicken pox, and
8	WHEREAS, Jonathon, a kindergartner at Ozona Elementary
9	School in North Pinellas County, died on February 23, 1998,
10	and
11	WHEREAS, it took the Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner's
12	Office 2 months to confirm that Jonathon died from a severe
13	case of chicken pox, and
14	WHEREAS, a vaccine for chicken pox has been available
15	since 1995, and
16	WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta has
17	declared chicken pox to be the leading cause of deaths
18	preventable by a vaccine in the United States, and
19	WHEREAS, studies indicate that chicken pox cases cost
20	the country between \$400 million and \$500 million a year in
21	health care and lost wages, and
22	WHEREAS, Florida spends approximately \$2.7 million each
23	year to provide free vaccinations against polio, diphtheria,
24	measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and whooping cough, all
25	of which are required for school-age children, and
26	WHEREAS, the state's expenditures would increase an
27	estimated \$1.5 million next year if the chicken pox vaccine
28	were also required for school-age children, and
29	WHEREAS, since Jonathon's death, his mother, Kathy
30	Atchison, has sought to increase public awareness of the
31	availability of the chicken pox vaccine, and to add the

vaccine to the immunizations Florida requires for school-age children, and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and appropriate for the House of Representatives to commemorate the untimely passing of young Jonathon Ryan Atchison by seeking to avert future child deaths from this preventable disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That the House pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of Jonathon Ryan Atchison, who died of chicken pox on February 23, 1998, at 6 years of age, and to offer its heartfelt condolences to the Atchison family and pledge its determination to seek to avert further child deaths from this preventable disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jonathon's mother, Kathy Atchison, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.