House Resolution

A resolution in recognition of Turn Around Florida.

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WHEREAS, during the past four years, the State of Texas has encouraged its citizens to take responsibility for their neighborhoods and communities through programs such as Turn Around Texas, and

WHEREAS, the initiative has its roots in the ideas and work of Herman Wrice, a community activist in Philadelphia who, in the late 1980's, showed the value of mobilizing neighborhoods and encouraging them to participate in frequent meetings, street marches, and vigils, and

WHEREAS, Wrice and his followers engaged in peaceful confrontation of criminals and drug traffickers as part of their effort, and worked with police to take back their streets, and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Taylor became the first Texas city to implement the process developed by Wrice, and, in less than one year, crime in that city decreased by 32 percent and violent crime decreased by 80 percent, and

WHEREAS, today, 17 cities in Texas are using the Wrice process, now known as Turn Around Texas, with dramatic results that include significant reductions in crime rate, improved relations between the community and police, and a discovery of common ground among residents of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes, and

WHEREAS, this movement has now been utilized in a number of Florida cities and counties; specifically, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Boynton 31 Beach, Deerfield Beach, Pompano, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Melbourne, Key West, Fort Myers, Lakeland, and Volusia County, and

WHEREAS, the Turn Around Florida program was implemented first in Melbourne in 1992, and the program began in Boynton Beach in 1995, in Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Fort Lauderdale, and Volusia County in 1996, and in Dania Beach in 1998, and

WHEREAS, the positive results of Turn Around Florida in these communities have included the opening of libraries, shopping centers, new play facilities, and community centers in crime-ravaged areas, and the emergence of new economic opportunities following the reduction in crime rates, and

WHEREAS, noticeable reductions in crime rates attributable to Turn Around Florida have occurred in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Dania Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Key Largo, and

WHEREAS, Turn Around Florida advocates removal of criminal elements and subsequent community beautification through a joint effort of neighbors working together to replace crime, drugs, and violence with community pride, optimism, and a vastly improved quality of life, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That the House of Representatives of the State of Florida hereby recognizes Turn Around Florida for its successful efforts in reducing drug trafficking and crime in neighborhoods and in improving the quality of life in cities 31 and communities throughout Florida.