Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House

Representative(s) Harrell offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

On page 2, lines 3-20,

remove: all of said lines

and insert:

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That the Legislature urges the members of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress to ensure that the Congress reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to continue to provide federal funding for the Florida Kidcare program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Governor to work with the Florida delegation to ensure that SCHIP is reauthorized in a timely manner.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Governor to provide the assistance necessary to identify and enroll children who qualify for Medicaid or the Florida Kidcare program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature proclaims that all components of state government should work together with educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance for providing health benefits to uninsured children in this state be used to the maximum extent possible.

====== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ======

On page 1, lines 8-31,

remove: all of said lines

and insert:

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards the health of children to be of paramount importance to families in the state, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and social and psychological well-being of the children of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers protecting the health of children to be essential to the well-being of Florida's youngest citizens and the quality of life in the state, and

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WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the Florida Kidcare program, which was created in 1998 and currently has 1,388,520 children enrolled in the program, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida recognizes the value of the Florida Kidcare program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the federal funding available for the Florida Kidcare program to be indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest means, NOW, THEREFORE,