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2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to support any commercial, civil,  
4 military, or academic endeavor, including job training  
5 and placement, which will enable the United States  
6 space program to maintain, to the greatest extent  
7 possible, our nation's only human space flight  
8 workforce.  
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10 WHEREAS, the space shuttle first began flying from Florida  
11 in 1981, and

12 WHEREAS, Florida is the home of the nation's only human  
13 space flight workforce, and

14 WHEREAS, our nation's prowess in space suffered when the  
15 Apollo program was abruptly terminated, followed by a lengthy  
16 gap in time before the onset of the Space Shuttle Program, and

17 WHEREAS, this nation did not sufficiently facilitate  
18 alternate commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavors,  
19 including job training and placement, in Florida to preserve the  
20 skills of the Apollo workforce so that they could be put to use  
21 on the Space Shuttle Program, and

22 WHEREAS, the unemployed, highly skilled Apollo workforce  
23 was forced to dissipate and find employment elsewhere, and

24 WHEREAS, the Space Shuttle Program was forced, in large  
25 part and at great expense, to use a new and untested workforce  
26 for space shuttle launch operations, and

27 WHEREAS, the Space Shuttle Program is slated to retire in  
28 2010 and there is currently a gap of at least 5 years between  
29 space shuttle retirement and the next American human space

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30 flight, and

31 WHEREAS, the United States should not repeat the mistakes  
32 made at the end of the Apollo program, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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36 That the United States Congress is urged to facilitate any  
37 commercial, civil, military, or academic endeavor, including job  
38 training and placement, which will maintain this nation's highly  
39 skilled human space flight operations workforce, which currently  
40 resides in Florida.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
42 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
43 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
44 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
45 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.