

By Senator Rich

34-02246-10

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 2010 as Safe Haven for Newborns Month in Florida and commending the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation for its efforts on behalf of newborns.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature adopted legislation in 2000 establishing safe haven facilities where parents could anonymously place newborn infants, who might otherwise be abandoned, without fear of prosecution, and

WHEREAS, in memory of his wife, Gloria, Nick Silverio established "A Safe Haven For Newborns" in 2001, a project of the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation, in response to the tragedy of newborn abandonment in Florida, and

WHEREAS, the project that began in Miami has now spread through a grassroots effort to reach all 67 counties in Florida, partnering with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, emergency medical services, hospitals, and other organizations and agencies in the state, to raise awareness and provide responses to mothers who ask where they might place their infants, and

WHEREAS, by establishing a multilingual referral help line that is constantly staffed with a network of volunteers and providing public service announcements and a publicly accessible website of information, "A Safe Haven for Newborns" has become the primary information resource in Florida alerting parents as to how they can anonymously and safely place their newborn infants, thereby saving lives, and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the safe haven law in 2000, at least 143 newborns have been placed in safe haven facilities,

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30 due in large measure to the leadership of the Gloria M. Silverio  
31 Foundation, and

32 WHEREAS, the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation, in creating "A  
33 Safe Haven for Newborns," has performed a unique service to  
34 communities in this state and provided vital leadership for  
35 others in our society who seek remediation to the tragedy of  
36 infant abandonment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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40 That February 2010 is recognized as "Safe Haven for  
41 Newborns Month" in Florida and the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation  
42 is commended for its efforts to protect newborns through safe  
43 haven facilities and support.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
45 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Nick E. Silverio  
46 of "A Safe Haven for Newborns" as a tangible token of the  
47 sentiments of the Florida Senate.