

1 HJR144
2 117149-1
3 By Representatives Hilliard and DeMarco
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 26-JAN-10

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8 RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS MENTORING MONTH IN THE STATE
9 OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, the month of January has been designated
12 annually as National Mentoring Month; and

13 WHEREAS, mentoring is a long-standing tradition in
14 which a dependable, caring adult provides guidance, support,
15 and encouragement to facilitate a young person's social,
16 emotional, and cognitive development; and

17 WHEREAS, continued research on mentoring shows that
18 formal, high quality mentoring that focuses on developing the
19 competence and character of the individual who is being
20 mentored promotes positive outcomes, such as improved academic
21 achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career
22 development; and

23 WHEREAS, additional research provides strong
24 evidence that mentoring successfully reduces substance use and
25 abuse, academic failure, and delinquency; and

1 WHEREAS, mentoring, in addition to preparing young
2 people for school, work, and life, is extremely rewarding for
3 those who serve as mentors; and

4 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters is a mentoring
5 organization founded more than 100 years ago to address the
6 problems of juvenile delinquency and the problems faced by
7 at-risk children throughout the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Alabama has eight Big Brothers Big Sisters
9 agencies across the state: Greater Birmingham, North Alabama,
10 the Shoals, Northeast Alabama, West Alabama, South Central
11 Alabama, South Alabama, and Morgan, Lawrence, Cullman, and
12 Winston Counties; and these agencies served more than 3,500
13 children in Alabama in 2009; and

14 WHEREAS, the vision for Big Brothers Big Sisters of
15 Alabama is successful mentoring relationships for all children
16 who need and want them, contributing to better schools,
17 brighter futures, and stronger communities for all; and

18 WHEREAS, in spite of progress made to increase
19 mentoring, there is still a serious "mentoring gap"; and

20 WHEREAS, mentoring partnerships between the public
21 and private sectors bring state and local leaders together to
22 support mentoring programs, by preventing duplication of
23 efforts, offering training in the best industry practices, and
24 making the most of limited resources to benefit young people;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, a monthlong celebration of mentoring will
27 help call attention to the critical role that mentors play in

1 helping young people realize their potential, as well as
2 encourage more individuals and organizations, including
3 schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith
4 institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring
5 in Alabama; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the desire of this body that the Big
7 Brothers Big Sisters agencies of Alabama be recognized for
8 their commitment in service to the children of Alabama; now
9 therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in highest commendation of Big
12 Brothers Big Sisters of Alabama, and in recognition of
13 outstanding volunteerism throughout the year, we hereby
14 acknowledge January as Mentoring Month in Alabama, and do
15 further direct that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to
16 each of the eight Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in
17 Alabama.