

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS MENTORING MONTH IN THE STATE
4 OF ALABAMA.

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

8 WHEREAS, mentoring is a long-standing tradition in
9 which a dependable, caring adult provides guidance, support,
10 and encouragement to facilitate a young person's social,
11 emotional, and cognitive development; and

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

18 WHEREAS, additional research provides strong
19 evidence that mentoring successfully reduces substance use and
20 abuse, academic failure, and delinquency; and

21 WHEREAS, mentoring, in addition to preparing young
22 people for school, work, and life, is extremely rewarding for
23 those who serve as mentors; and

24 WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters is a mentoring
25 organization founded more than 100 years ago to address the

1 problems of juvenile delinquency and the problems faced by
2 at-risk children throughout the nation; and

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

9 WHEREAS, the vision for Big Brothers Big Sisters of
10 Alabama is successful mentoring relationships for all children
11 who need and want them, contributing to better schools,
12 brighter futures, and stronger communities for all; and

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

15 WHEREAS, mentoring partnerships between the public
16 and private sectors bring state and local leaders together to
17 support mentoring programs, by preventing duplication of
18 efforts, offering training in the best industry practices, and
19 making the most of limited resources to benefit young people;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, a monthlong celebration of mentoring will
22 help call attention to the critical role that mentors play in
23 helping young people realize their potential, as well as
24 encourage more individuals and organizations, including
25 schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith

1 institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring
2 in Alabama; and

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

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

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
9 and was adopted by the House 28-JAN-10.

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Greg Pappas
Clerk

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Senate

06-APR-10

Adopted

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