

1 HR354  
2 152590-1  
3 By Representative Wren  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 24-APR-13

8 RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it is with highest commendation that the  
11 Boy Scouts of America is recognized for the public service the  
12 organization performs through its contributions to the lives  
13 of boys and young men; and

14 WHEREAS, Scouting is one of the largest youth  
15 organizations in the United States, with a membership  
16 exceeding 2.7 million boys and young men and more than one  
17 million adult volunteers; and

18 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated  
19 on February 8, 1910, and recognized by Federal Charter on June  
20 15, 1916, as an organization to provide an educational program  
21 for boys and young men to build strong moral character, train  
22 in the responsibilities of participatory citizenship, and  
23 develop personal fitness; and

24 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America teaches the core  
25 values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for  
26 the beliefs of others, volunteerism and service to others, and

1                   interdependence with the environment, principles that are  
2                   conducive to good character, citizenship, and health; and

3                   WHEREAS, since 1910, more than 111,000,000  
4                   individuals have been members of the Boy Scouts of America,  
5                   and there are eight councils in Alabama, including the  
6                   Alabama-Florida, Black Warrior, Chattahoochee, Choctaw,  
7                   Greater Alabama, Gulf Coast, Mobile Area, and Tuckabatchee  
8                   councils; and

9                   WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is a model for  
10                  inclusiveness, with millions of boys and young men from every  
11                  ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those  
12                  with disabilities and special needs, participating in Scouting  
13                  programs across the United States; and

14                  WHEREAS, both the Boy Scout Oath and the Cub Scout  
15                  Promise extract a commitment from Scouts to serve God and  
16                  their country, to help other people, and to obey the Boy Scout  
17                  Law and the Cub Scout Law of the Pack; and

18                  WHEREAS, more than one million adult volunteers  
19                  selflessly serve young people in their communities through  
20                  organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America; and

21                  WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in *Boy Scouts of America  
22                  et al. v. Dale*, has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a  
23                  voluntary, nonbusiness organization, has the right to set its  
24                  own standards for membership and leadership; and

25                  WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America has always  
26                  affirmed faith in God as foundational and essential to its  
27                  purpose and mission, animated by Lord Baden-Powell's insight

1 that "God has given us...the great Book of Nature to read; and  
2 (no one can) say that there is untruth there--the facts stand  
3 before them"; and

4 WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America enjoys a  
5 sustained record of proven success in producing leaders for  
6 our nation who are trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,  
7 courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and  
8 reverent; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
10 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That this body hereby recognizes  
11 the Boy Scouts of America and expresses appreciation for the  
12 public service the organization performs through its  
13 contributions to the lives of boys and young men, and it is  
14 directed that a copy of the resolution be provided to the Boy  
15 Scouts of America.