

1 HR168  
2 117146-1  
3 By Representative DeMarco  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 28-JAN-10

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

10  
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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
11 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in highest commendation of  
12 Big 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.