House Resolution 32 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

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A Resolution recognizing April 2015 as Financial
Literacy Month.

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance
Corporation (FDIC), 27.7 percent of households in the
United States are unbanked or underbanked and therefore
have not had the opportunity to access savings,
lending, and other basic financial services; and

WHEREAS, according to the FDIC, 30 percent of
banks reported in 2011 that consumers lacked an
understanding of the financial products and services
banks offered; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report by the National
Foundation for Credit Counseling:

(1) Forty-one percent of adults in the United
States gave themselves a grade of C, D, or F on their
knowledge of personal finance; and

(2) Twenty-four percent of adults admitted to not
paying their bills on time in 2013; and

(3) Only 39 percent of adults keep close track of
their spending, knowing how much they spend on such
things as food, housing, and entertainment; and

(4) Thirty-four percent of adults report that they
have no nonretirement savings; and

(5) Fifty-four percent of adults did not review
either their credit score or a credit report in
WHEREAS, a 2014 survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that:

(1) Only 18 percent of workers were very confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement; and

(2) Fifty-six percent of workers said they or their spouses have not calculated the amount of money they need to save for retirement; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report from the Federal Reserve System, aggregate household debt in the United States was $13.5 trillion; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report by the Council for Economic Education:

(1) Only 22 states require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) Only 17 states require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to the mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth; and

WHEREAS, quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, increased financial literacy empowers
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1 individuals to make wise financial decisions and
2 reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex
3 economy; and
4 WHEREAS, a greater understanding of, and familiarity
5 with, financial markets and institutions will lead to
6 increased economic activity and growth; NOW THEREFORE,
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
8 the House of Representatives designates April 2015 as
9 Financial Literacy Month to raise public awareness
10 about the importance of personal financial education
11 and the serious consequences that may result from a
12 lack of understanding about personal finances; and
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
14 Representatives calls on local governments, schools,
15 nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people
16 of Iowa to observe Financial Literacy Month with
17 appropriate programs and activities.