



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

April 22, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning  
Secretary of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

FILED  
2008 APR 22 PM 4:12  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 276 with my signature, enacted during the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to food donation by public food service establishment...

House Bill 276 makes it easier for restaurants and other public food establishments to donate perishable foods to charitable or nonprofit organizations for free distribution to people in need by giving these establishments greater immunity against liability.

The idea for the bill came from Jack Davis, a Miami middle school student who was disturbed by the fact that the breakfast buffet at a hotel he was staying at threw away excess food. When Davis asked why, the hotel told him it was because of concerns about restaurant liability for donating excess food. When Davis returned to Florida, state Representative Ari Porth and state Senator Nan Rich were contacted to draft legislation to give licensed restaurants immunity when making charitable food donations. The results were Senate Bill 276 and House Bill 99.

I am very encouraged that Florida's future generations are concerned with the well-being of others. I hope this will serve as an important civics lesson for all of Florida's youth.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, nearly 36 million Americans go hungry every year, including 12 million children - and the numbers are rising. With over 43,000 licensed public food service establishments in Florida, the ability to donate leftover food could have a significant impact to those in need.

For this reason, I hereby sign into law Senate Bill 276, the "Jack Davis Florida Restaurant Lending a Helping Hand Act."

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist