

By: Wu

H.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Every year, an estimated 20,000 young Texans are  
2 placed in our state's foster care system, and the establishment of  
3 an annual Texas Foster Youth Empowerment Day will help ensure that  
4 they receive the support they need to realize their full potential;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Youth in the foster care system are required to  
7 navigate considerable challenges, and of particular concern are  
8 those young people who age out of the system; in Texas, nearly 40  
9 percent of the individuals who exited foster care in 2020 left due  
10 to aging out, rather than being adopted or reunified with family;  
11 nationally, more than 23,000 youth age out of foster care each year,  
12 and of that number, 20 percent become homeless, and only 3 percent  
13 go on to earn a higher education degree; and

14 WHEREAS, Many young people find it difficult to transition  
15 out of foster care because they lack an effective support system;  
16 they can benefit greatly from services provided by state agencies,  
17 including financial literacy education, access to vaccinations and  
18 other medical care, and assistance with acquiring official  
19 paperwork and identification documentation; moreover, guidance in  
20 how to apply for student financial aid, Medicaid, and other  
21 benefits can enable them to achieve stability and greater  
22 independence; and

23 WHEREAS, Many foster youth are also underserved in regard to  
24 their mental and emotional health; the experience of living in

1 foster care, as well as the abuse and neglect that they may have  
2 experienced before being removed from their original homes, can  
3 have a long-term impact, which is best addressed through  
4 professional therapy and counseling; and

5 WHEREAS, Young people represent the future of our state, and  
6 Texas Foster Youth Empowerment Day celebrates those who are part of  
7 our foster care system while raising awareness of the important  
8 work that must be done to achieve better outcomes for these  
9 deserving young Texans; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby designate May 31 as Texas Foster Youth Empowerment Day; and,  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of  
14 Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in  
15 effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is  
16 finally passed by the legislature.