

By: Schatzline

H.C.R. No. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Fathers play an important role in nurturing and  
2 supporting children, enabling them to learn, develop, and reach  
3 their full potential; and

4 WHEREAS, Fatherlessness and the lack of important role models  
5 in the lives of children today are factors of the violence and  
6 unrest we are witnessing in our state and across our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite some successful legislation and the  
8 creation of fatherhood initiatives, fatherless homes are still  
9 prevalent; and

10 WHEREAS, Research shows children do best when raised by two  
11 parents in a committed, long-term marriage; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau,  
13 18,400,000 children in the United States live without a father in  
14 the home, and 2.5 million children in Texas live in single-parent  
15 homes; and

16 WHEREAS, Data supports the hypothesis that having strong male  
17 role models in the home helps prevent suicide, behavioral  
18 disorders, juvenile detention, substance abuse, aggression,  
19 violence, and teen pregnancy; and

20 WHEREAS, Fathers play an important role in teaching important  
21 life skills, providing guidance through challenges, and helping  
22 children persevere through adversity; and

23 WHEREAS, By promoting fatherhood with amended policies that  
24 remove disincentives to two-parent households, and by following

1 evidence-based practices, the number of fatherless homes will  
2 decrease across all communities; now, therefore, be it

3         RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas  
4 hereby

5                 (1) affirms the importance of fatherhood in caring  
6 for, nurturing, and supporting children throughout their lives;

7                 (2) supports the efforts of public officials,  
8 community leaders, faith leaders, and all citizens to promote and  
9 encourage engaged fatherhood;

10                (3) recognizes the impact that fatherlessness has had  
11 on American children in creating obstacles for children to learn,  
12 grow, develop, and live fulfilling and rewarding lives;

13                (4) recognizes misaligned incentives in the structure  
14 of state welfare programs and the barriers they create in allowing  
15 fathers to return home to their spouse and children;

16                (5) supports programs and initiatives to provide  
17 incarcerated individuals with the tools and skills to seek  
18 meaningful employment opportunities upon serving their time in  
19 detention;

20                (6) reaffirms support for efforts to encourage  
21 educational opportunities and economic development in minority  
22 communities, such as the First Step Act and Opportunity Zones;

23                (7) commits to researching and understanding the root  
24 causes of fatherlessness and crafting public policy that supports  
25 and encourages fully engaged fatherhood;

26                (8) supports addressing the difficulties of child  
27 custody as it relates to alimony and child support;

1           (9) supports exploring programs that help promote male  
2 role models in children's lives, including through foster parenting  
3 and mentoring programs, and in so doing reduce overall government  
4 dependency and social breakdown; and

5           (10) recognizes the threat of government growth to  
6 prosperity, responsibility, and liberty, and thus embraces the  
7 important role that the private sector, including faith-based  
8 organizations, can often play in lieu of direct government  
9 involvement.