

By: Davis

H.R. No. 481

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Pamela Dawson of the DeSoto Independent School
2 District has been named the recipient of the 2023 Music Educator
3 Award by the Recording Academy, the organization that confers the
4 annual Grammy Awards; and

5 WHEREAS, The director of choral music at DeSoto High school,
6 Ms. Dawson uses the principles of kinesthesia to help singers
7 become more expressive; she has taught varsity chorus, handbells,
8 and piano for 15 years while also overseeing the choral programs at
9 DeSoto ISD middle schools; choirs under her direction have
10 consistently received high rankings in competition, and they have
11 performed at Carnegie Hall and in London, England; many of her
12 students have gone on to study at such prestigious institutions as
13 Berklee College of Music, and some have pursued rewarding careers
14 on Broadway; in 2022, she was inducted into the DeSoto ISD Hall of
15 Honor; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Dawson has worked extensively with the Texas
17 Music Educators Association, and she is a member of the American
18 Choral Directors Association and Texas Choral Directors
19 Association; in addition, she has served as chair of the DeSoto Arts
20 Commission and helped organize its music festivals and events,
21 which have often featured her students; a gifted harpist, she has
22 performed with several ensembles and in numerous venues; and

23 WHEREAS, Born in Detroit, Michigan, Ms. Dawson began harp and
24 piano lessons as a young girl, and she was influenced significantly

1 by her godsister, acclaimed jazz harpist and composer Dorothy
2 Ashby; in high school, Ms. Dawson played clarinet in the band, and
3 she earned her bachelor's degree in communications and theater from
4 Eastern Michigan University, with an emphasis in music and
5 business; she was initially employed in an administrative job, but
6 she recognized her true calling immediately when a friend requested
7 her assistance with a choral class; in 1995, she began teaching,
8 serving as head choral director at several high schools in the
9 Detroit metropolitan area before moving to Texas; in all her
10 endeavors, she enjoys the love and support of her two daughters,
11 Elizabeth and Mariah, and she takes great pride in her
12 granddaughter, Rhylee; and

13 WHEREAS, Pamela Dawson has greatly enriched the lives of many
14 young Texans through her passion for teaching and her extraordinary
15 expertise in choral music, and she is truly deserving of this
16 national recognition; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Pamela Dawson on her receipt of the
19 2023 Music Educator Award from the Recording Academy and extend to
20 her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Ms. Dawson as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.