

By: Talarico

H.R. No. 1559

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Association for Texas Advocates is celebrating
2 40 years of exemplary service to adults with intellectual and
3 developmental disabilities and their families in 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in 1983, Texas Advocates is a statewide
5 self-advocacy organization run by and for people with intellectual
6 and developmental disabilities; the nonprofit now has some 20
7 chapters and 500 members in towns and cities from the Rio Grande
8 Valley to the Texas Panhandle and from El Paso to Texarkana; and

9 WHEREAS, Texas Advocates has steadfastly provided adult
10 Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities with a
11 range of programs to promote their well-being, connect them to
12 their communities, and enrich their lives; the organization is
13 currently offering peer mentoring services at residential
14 institutions, operating 15 Next Chapter Book Clubs to help
15 participants discover the joy of reading, and preparing to train 40
16 of its members to become leaders in Texas organizations and
17 governmental entities by 2027; and

18 WHEREAS, Every year, Texas Advocates sponsors a
19 well-attended annual conference for adults with intellectual and
20 developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations and
21 businesses that serve them, and this year, the conference will take
22 place in the city of Denton; during each state legislative session,
23 the association sends representatives to discuss the needs of its
24 clients and the cause of disability rights with state lawmakers,

1 and it collaborates with like-minded organizations to provide
2 current data and cogent information to elected officials in the
3 interim as well; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas Advocates is one of the few organizations of
5 its kind whose leadership structure includes an individual with an
6 intellectual disability as its co-executive director, who works in
7 tandem with an experienced nonprofit executive; its current
8 co-executive directors are Brooke Hohfeld and Deborah Wallace, who
9 are doing an exemplary job of leading the organization with the
10 support of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, the
11 Tocker Foundation, and other donors; and

12 WHEREAS, For four decades, the Association for Texas
13 Advocates has supported and empowered countless clients across the
14 state through its initiatives and advocacy efforts, and it is a
15 pleasure to join in recognizing the organization on this special
16 milestone in its history; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor the Association for Texas Advocates on its
19 40th anniversary and commend the organization's leadership team,
20 support staff, contractors, volunteers, and members for their
21 outstanding contributions to its success; and, be it further

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