

By: Talarico

H.R. No. 1730

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Patrick Bresette retired as executive director of
2 Children's Defense Fund-Texas in April 2023, drawing to a close an
3 exemplary career in public policy spanning more than three decades;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed executive director in 2014, Mr. Bresette
6 was instrumental in securing millions of dollars in dedicated
7 funding to support the organization's mission; he built a strong
8 team by fostering a culture of compassion and care, enabling staff
9 members to make a significant positive impact even during
10 exceptionally challenging times; under his leadership, the Texas
11 office expanded direct child health outreach and enrollment, and it
12 increased advocacy and organizing efforts in behalf of the
13 uninsured; moreover, it developed a new youth civic education and
14 engagement initiative and served as a voice for immigrant children
15 and families; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Bresette previously served as executive
17 director of Public Works, a nonprofit organization committed to
18 promoting greater understanding and appreciation of the vital role
19 of the public sector and civic responsibility; he traveled
20 nationally to help leaders and activists around the country make a
21 compelling case for public systems and structures at the local,
22 state, and federal levels; from 1991 to 2004, he served as associate
23 director of the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities,
24 where he launched the Texas Kids Count Initiative and guided the

1 organization's child advocacy work; and

2 WHEREAS, Dedicated to assisting low-income Texas families,
3 Mr. Bresette led statewide coalitions to advance shared
4 legislative priorities, and he testified before state house and
5 senate committees and administrative hearings; he has been much in
6 demand as a consultant, speaker, and trainer; and

7 WHEREAS, A Washington, D.C., native, Mr. Bresette earned a
8 bachelor's degree in fine arts in sculpture from the New York State
9 College of Ceramics at Alfred University; he went on to complete a
10 master's degree at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of
11 Public Affairs; his retirement will afford him more time to spend
12 with his treasured family and to pursue such interests as
13 carpentry, design, neon art and sculpture, cooking, barbecuing, and
14 gardening; and

15 WHEREAS, Patrick Bresette devoted his career to creating
16 positive social change and improving the lives of children and
17 families, and as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his
18 life, he may indeed reflect with pride on his contributions; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Patrick Bresette on his retirement
22 as executive director of Children's Defense Fund-Texas and extend
23 to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for Mr. Bresette as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.