

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Girls Empowerment Network has made a lasting and
2 positive difference in the lives of countless Texas youth; and

3 WHEREAS, Originally called the Ophelia Project, Girls
4 Empowerment Network was created in 1996 by a group of concerned
5 mothers; inspired by the book *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves*
6 *of Adolescent Girls*, the women focused on ways to address the issues
7 of increasing teenage pregnancy rates and the growing number of
8 girls experiencing disordered eating, low academic achievement,
9 mental health concerns, and substance misuse; today, the network
10 operates offices in Houston and Austin and continues to equip youth
11 with the tools they need to develop confidence, resiliency, and
12 healthy self-esteem; and

13 WHEREAS, Serving girls in the 3rd through 12th grades, Girls
14 Empowerment Network employs a self-efficacy curriculum that
15 stresses the "Six Cs"--collaboration, communication, confidence,
16 coping skills, creativity, and critical thinking--and its mission
17 is furthered through summer camps and conferences; in addition, the
18 network places a strong emphasis on education, partnering with more
19 than 60 Texas schools to improve outcomes, sponsoring professional
20 development for teachers, and conducting parental outreach
21 initiatives; and

22 WHEREAS, The organization's Spark Change Project is one of
23 its newest programs; launched in 2020 in collaboration with the
24 Excellence & Advancement Foundation, the project serves girls of

1 color, assisting them in becoming advocates for positive social
2 change; as part of that process, youth address local policymakers
3 about such issues as mental health and the need for safe and
4 supportive school environments; and

5 WHEREAS, Girls Empowerment Network is truly deserving of
6 special recognition for its important work, and all those
7 associated with the organization may reflect with pride on their
8 exemplary efforts; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commend Girls Empowerment Network for its
11 achievements and extend to the group's staff, administrators, and
12 volunteers sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for the
14 network as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
15 Representatives.

A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 1764

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1764 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House