

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Tanya Debose has greatly benefited the Independence
2 Heights community of Houston through her activism and advocacy work
3 focused on the preservation of African American history and
4 culture; and

5 WHEREAS, A resident of Houston, Ms. Debose has deep roots in
6 Independence Heights; her great-grandfather was one of the
7 pioneering figures who initially purchased land in the area as part
8 of an effort to create a new community for Blacks; in January 1915,
9 Independence Heights became the first municipality incorporated by
10 African Americans in Texas; the community was annexed to Houston in
11 1929; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Debose is a member of the advisory board of the
13 Prairie View A&M University Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and
14 Justice, and she is the founder of the Preserving Communities of
15 Color Initiative; through its annual conference and other
16 activities, the initiative brings together advocates, scholars,
17 elected officials, and other leaders and serves to connect historic
18 communities of color to a wide range of resources, tools, and
19 support; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Debose is also actively involved with the
21 Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, and she is working
22 to create a statewide consortium of heritage councils to help
23 protect and sustain African American history and culture in the
24 Lone Star State; moreover, she is an American Leadership Forum

1 Fellow, and she is helping to build a national heritage corridor to
2 focus attention on the all-Black towns that were created after the
3 Civil War; and

4 WHEREAS, Tanya Debose has made a lasting and positive
5 difference in the community of Independence Heights, and it is a
6 pleasure to join in honoring her for her wide-ranging
7 contributions; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commend Tanya Debose for her exceptional efforts
10 in behalf of the historic African American community of
11 Independence Heights and extend to her sincere best wishes for
12 continued success with her important work; and, be it further

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

J. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 2286

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2286 was adopted by the House on May 29, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House