

By: Eckhardt

S.R. No. 600

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Two decades have passed since the tragic death of
2 Ortralla Mosley, and her mother, Carolyn White-Mosley, has since
3 done extraordinary work to prevent other families from suffering
4 the loss of a loved one to teen dating violence; and

5 WHEREAS, Ortralla Mosley was only 15 years old when she lost
6 her life on May 28, 2003, at the hands of her ex-boyfriend; her
7 death left a deep void in the lives of her family and friends, and in
8 the midst of tremendous grief, Ms. White-Mosley dedicated herself
9 to honoring her daughter's memory and becoming a catalyst for
10 change; she began working with a community safety task force to
11 recommend safety measures to the Austin Independent School
12 District, which led to the development of the first policies to
13 prevent teen dating violence in the state of Texas; and

14 WHEREAS, Ortralla Mosley's story inspired the creation of the
15 Texas Advocacy Project's Teen Justice Initiative, which provides
16 free legal services to students experiencing dating violence, and
17 the passage of House Bill 121 by the 80th Texas Legislature, which
18 requires all school districts in the state to adopt dating violence
19 policies like those developed by Austin ISD; this groundbreaking
20 piece of legislation has since served as a model for laws in other
21 states; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2010, Carolyn White-Mosley joined together with a
23 group of young activists, including her daughter's friend RaeAnne
24 Spence, to advocate for the establishment of February as National

1 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month;
2 Ms. White-Mosley continued to push for legislative action on the
3 issue, and in 2013, she met with then-Vice President Joe Biden to
4 support the inclusion of language addressing teen violence in the
5 Violence Against Women Act; recently, she has remained active in
6 her community by overseeing afterschool programs for youth; and

7 WHEREAS, Carolyn White-Mosley has demonstrated an unwavering
8 commitment to building a future where all young people are safe,
9 secure, and free from fear and abuse, and she has touched the lives
10 of countless people through her tireless dedication to this
11 important cause; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
13 hereby honor Carolyn White-Mosley for her efforts to end teen
14 dating violence and pay tribute to the legacy of her daughter,
15 Ortralla Mosley, on the 20th anniversary of her death; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Ms. White-Mosley as an expression of high regard by
19 the Texas Senate.