

By: Cortez

H.C.R. No. 10

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Every year, an estimated 260,000 children are
2 abducted in the United States, and in more than three-quarters of
3 these cases, the abduction is perpetrated by a family member of the
4 victim, typically a parent; and

5 WHEREAS, Family abductions often occur in the midst of
6 contentious divorce or child custody battles; because the abductor
7 is commonly a parent, kidnappings may not be recognized or reported
8 by witnesses, and the abducting parent may attempt to take the child
9 across state lines or even to a foreign country; in 2022, family
10 abduction cases accounted for 58 percent of all AMBER Alerts that
11 were issued; and

12 WHEREAS, Although most family abductions don't pose the same
13 imminent danger to the child as an abduction by a stranger, family
14 abductions are serious criminal offenses that can have devastating
15 impacts on children and families; and

16 WHEREAS, Parental kidnapping is illegal in every state, and
17 it is often prosecuted as a felony-level offense; these cases are
18 treated with the utmost urgency by law enforcement officials, who
19 work to return kidnapped children to their rightful home, even in
20 cases where the child does not face a threat of physical harm; and

21 WHEREAS, Family abductions are a violation of established
22 custodial rights that can have far-reaching effects on all who are
23 involved, and by focusing attention on the seriousness of this
24 crime, we may better protect our state's youngest and most

1 vulnerable residents from harm; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby designate May 23 as Family Abduction Awareness Day; and, be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of
6 Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in
7 effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is
8 finally passed by the legislature.