

By: Burnam

H.C.R. No. 74

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Living wage ordinances have been adopted by more
2 than 80 city and county governments and universities throughout the
3 United States; the ordinances, with wages ranging from \$6.25 to
4 \$12.00 per hour, require companies with whom the governments and
5 universities contract, or that receive grants, loans, bond
6 financing, tax abatements, or other economic development
7 subsidies, to pay employees enough to support themselves and their
8 families; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal hourly minimum wage of \$5.15 totals
10 \$9,880 per year for a full-time job holder and is \$8,520 below the
11 federal poverty guideline of \$18,400, thus making it impossible to
12 secure safe, decent, affordable housing; and

13 WHEREAS, According to *Out of Reach 2001*, a publication of the
14 National Low Income Housing Coalition, the United States Congress
15 would have to double the current minimum wage to enable low-income
16 working families, as well as those families leaving welfare rolls,
17 to afford a two-bedroom rental apartment at the federal fair market
18 rent (FMR); and

19 WHEREAS, Fair market rents are established by the United
20 States Department of Housing and Urban Development for each
21 municipality in the country and are based on gross rent estimates,
22 which include shelter, rent, and the cost of utilities except
23 telephone service; living wages, therefore, will vary per area in
24 accordance with the local FMR; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors reports that
2 at least 3.5 million people are likely to experience homelessness
3 during a year, and about 80 percent of those persons face a housing
4 crisis solely because they cannot find affordable housing; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Economic Policy Institute, a living
6 wage level is usually the wage a full-time worker would need to earn
7 to support a family above the federal poverty line, ranging from 100
8 percent to 130 percent of the poverty measurement; and

9 WHEREAS, The minimum wage, however, has historically failed
10 to keep pace with inflation, and now buys approximately 40 percent
11 less than it did in the 1950s relative to the amount necessary to
12 operate a household as calculated by a University of Arizona
13 professor; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact
16 legislation to adopt the Universal Living Wage so as to help the
17 homeless get off the streets and enable working citizens to obtain
18 safe, decent, and affordable housing; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
20 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
21 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
22 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
23 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
24 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
25 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.