

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is proud to
2 welcome members of the Texas Organization of Rural and Community
3 Hospitals, or TORCH, to the Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Established in 1990, TORCH is the only hospital
5 association dedicated to meeting the needs of rural and small
6 community hospitals in Texas; made up of general acute care
7 hospitals with fewer than 150 beds, TORCH bridges the gap between
8 rural and urban providers; and

9 WHEREAS, TORCH assists small hospitals in the areas of
10 regulatory and financial reform and offers a broad range of
11 educational opportunities in the form of conferences and seminars,
12 including the TORCH Annual Education Conference and Trade Show; and

13 WHEREAS, Of the 254 counties in Texas, 196 are considered
14 rural; of these counties, 61 have no hospital, 105 have one
15 hospital, 27 have two hospitals, and 4 have three hospitals; 176
16 Texas counties have been designated as medically underserved areas,
17 and an additional 47 counties have been designated as partial
18 medically underserved areas; and

19 WHEREAS, Some 3.1 million Texans live in our state's rural
20 regions, and these Lone Star citizens deserve to have access to high
21 quality medical care; the members of TORCH have lived up to their
22 motto, "Big enough to help, Small enough to care," and it is a
23 privilege to have delegates from this group with us today; now,
24 therefore, be it

H.R. No. 194

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
2 Legislature hereby welcome the members of the Texas Organization of
3 Rural and Community Hospitals to the Capitol and commend all those
4 associated with this noteworthy organization for their work in
5 behalf of the Lone Star State's rural and community hospitals.

Garza

H.R. No. 194

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 194 was adopted by the House on
February 12, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House