

By: Garza

H.R. No. 194

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

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.