

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas takes pleasure
3 in recognizing the Texas Juvenile Justice System and in declaring
4 February 27 Texas Juvenile Justice Day 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Texas and county governments are
6 partners in providing one of the most progressive juvenile justice
7 systems in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Texas Juvenile Justice System is composed of 169
9 community-based probation departments, which serve youths and
10 families in all 254 counties in the state; the Texas Juvenile
11 Probation Commission, which provides oversight for the probation
12 departments; and the Texas Youth Commission, which provides
13 institutional programs and services to high-risk juvenile
14 offenders; and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature extensively studied and
16 analyzed the juvenile justice system and in 1995 made sweeping
17 reforms that provided for greater accountability for offenders,
18 broader options for the prosecution of juvenile offenders,
19 increased public safety, focused prevention and early intervention
20 programs, and increased funding for the entire juvenile justice
21 system; and

22 WHEREAS, With increased resources and guidelines, juvenile
23 justice system professionals are able to make a positive
24 difference in the lives of many troubled Texas youths and their

1 families; and

2 WHEREAS, The reforms that began in 1995 have produced
3 dramatic results; between 1995 and 2001, the juvenile-age
4 population has increased 15.2 percent; however, referrals of youths
5 to the juvenile justice system decreased by 15.4 percent, arrests
6 decreased by 21.4 percent, violent arrests decreased by 41.3
7 percent, and referrals to the Texas Youth Commission decreased
8 significantly; and

9 WHEREAS, Statistics show that the State of Texas has avoided
10 millions of dollars in correctional costs because of the effective
11 use of probation services and rehabilitative programs that reduce
12 the number of referrals to the juvenile justice system; and

13 WHEREAS, The juvenile probation departments handle 98
14 percent of the referrals of youths to the juvenile justice system
15 each year through the efforts of 2,502 certified juvenile probation
16 officers, 2,695 certified detention officers, and 1,951 certified
17 corrections officers; and

18 WHEREAS, The dedicated probation, detention, and corrections
19 officers are represented by the Juvenile Justice Association of
20 Texas, whose mission is to promote advocacy for Texas children by
21 providing quality juvenile services through professional
22 development, leadership, education, and training; and

23 WHEREAS, The persons who enter the field of juvenile justice
24 accept a great responsibility to the youths and families of Texas;
25 they work tirelessly and courageously to rehabilitate the lives of
26 troubled youths and maintain the security and safety of our state's
27 communities; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby commend the outstanding professionals of our juvenile
3 justice system for their vital contributions to the citizens of
4 this state and extend sincere appreciation to them on Texas
5 Juvenile Justice Day 2003; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in their
7 honor and as an expression of high regard from the Texas
8 Legislature.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 15 was adopted by the Senate on February 17, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 15 was adopted by the House on February 17, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor