

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Substance abuse places an enormous burden on Texans,
2 as individuals, as families, as communities, and as taxpayers, and
3 according to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the
4 total impact of substance abuse in Texas cost the state's economy an
5 estimated \$25.9 billion in 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, Lost productivity accounted for 43 percent of the
7 cost, the direct and indirect cost of crime accounted for almost 30
8 percent, and premature death was identified as accounting for more
9 than 18 percent of the cost; and

10 WHEREAS, Alcohol and drug abuse problems are intertwined with
11 virtually every other public health, social, and economic problem
12 and cannot be addressed in isolation; the governor of Texas has
13 declared that the state "must combine strong law enforcement with
14 proven prevention programs and effective treatment to keep our
15 communities safe from the destruction caused by drug abuse"; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature established the
17 Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee to act as a single source
18 of information about issues related to reducing drug demand, to
19 develop and coordinate a statewide strategy, and to report the
20 committee's findings and recommendations to the governor and the
21 legislature; and

22 WHEREAS, Its report to the leadership, *Toward a Drug-free*
23 *Texas: A Coordinated Demand Reduction Strategy*, provides a viable
24 plan for integrating prevention, treatment, and enforcement

1 activities to provide maximum results through a cost-effective
2 approach; and

3 WHEREAS, The report sets a 10-year target of reducing the
4 illegal use of drugs by both adolescents and adults by 25 percent
5 and establishes a two-year plan outlining how the committee and its
6 member agencies will implement its nine-point strategy of building
7 partnerships, investing for results, strengthening the legal
8 framework and social environment, expanding and strengthening
9 community coalitions, intervening early to prevent and treat
10 substance abuse, matching people to appropriate and effective
11 services, breaking the cycle of addiction and crime, developing a
12 strong workforce, and confronting discrimination; now, therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby express its support for the Drug Demand Reduction Advisory
16 Committee's strategy to reduce illegal drug demand in Texas; and,
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby commend the
19 committee for the successful completion of the first phase of its
20 work, including execution of a memorandum of understanding
21 committing all state agency members to implementation of the
22 strategy, and applaud all federal, state, and local government
23 personnel working to combat illegal drug use in Texas, as well as
24 community leaders who seek to make a difference across the state;
25 and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby encourage state
27 officials to work together to support the implementation of the

1 strategy and continue to seek ways to improve coordination among
2 federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations,
3 corporations, and private citizens to reduce the demand for drugs
4 in Texas; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby call on the
6 committee to continue to seek federal, state, and local involvement
7 in the implementation of its strategy and ask parents to join in the
8 effort to prevent, reduce, and reject illegal drug use in Texas by
9 talking to their children about the dangers and consequences of
10 illegal use of alcohol and other drugs and encouraging other
11 responsible adults to do the same in their families and
12 communities; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee as an
15 expression of support from the House of Representatives and Senate
16 of the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas.