

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 460

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at The University of Texas School of Law on the occasion of its 10th anniversary on April 8, 2003; and

WHEREAS, The center was created in 1993 as a statewide initiative to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution in Texas governmental and public interest entities and to provide alternative dispute resolution education, research, and services to the university community and the citizens of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The center is located within the university in order to provide a neutral and nonpolitical site to assist state and local governments in the use and development of alternative dispute resolution; the center sponsors a fellows program to bring together state officials and professionals interested in government use of alternative dispute resolution, and it created an interdisciplinary graduate program in dispute resolution at the university; and

WHEREAS, The use of alternative dispute resolution can effect significant cost savings by resolving disputes without litigation, and it fosters cooperation within governmental bodies and between government and the public; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution provided assistance to state legislators, who in 1997 unanimously passed two bills, the Governmental Dispute Resolution Act and the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, which provide for the development and use of alternative dispute resolution procedures in state agencies; and

WHEREAS, Alternative dispute resolution reduces liability risk and litigation expenses for governmental agencies and private entities, and it is an efficient and cost-effective method of conflict resolution; the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution deserves legislative recognition for the outstanding services it provides to the people of Texas in promoting the appropriate use of alternative dispute resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at The University of Texas School of Law for its significant contributions to all citizens of this state and extend congratulations to it on its 10th anniversary, with best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the center as an expression of the high regard of the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 27, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate