

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 193

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Donna Hoedt of Angleton lost her life on April 2,
2 1996, at the age of 33, when she was murdered by her spouse; even
3 though her husband was subsequently convicted of the crime and
4 sentenced to life in prison, he retained parental rights over the
5 couple's four children; and

6 WHEREAS, Seeking to rectify this horrible injustice, Ms.
7 Hoedt's mother, Kate Weaver, undertook a lengthy and expensive
8 court battle that ultimately awarded her custody of her
9 grandchildren; in order to help other families avoid this
10 additional victimization, she has led a campaign to bring attention
11 to the absence of state laws terminating parental rights of those
12 individuals who have been convicted of murdering their partners;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, To that end, the 79th Texas Legislature has enacted
15 into law the Donna Hoedt Act, or House Bill 657, which terminates
16 the parent-child relationship of a parent convicted of murdering
17 the child's other parent; and

18 WHEREAS, Kate Weaver is to be commended for attempting to
19 look beyond the painful death of her daughter to seek to ensure the
20 emotional and physical well-being of children who have suffered the
21 loss of one parent at the hands of the other; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
24 Donna Hoedt and recognize the selfless efforts of Kate Weaver to

1 right a terrible wrong; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Mrs. Weaver as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.