

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Texans Can! academies on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the first school in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas Can! Academy was originally created in 1985 to provide juvenile offenders with remedial education that would allow them to earn General Educational Development certificates; after 10 years of positive results, however, Texans Can! was born, and the program was expanded to provide high school dropouts and others at risk of dropping out of school a second chance at earning a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, The Texans Can! programs are now located throughout the state, and expansion efforts are under way in several cities across the country; academies in Texas include those in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and at Carrollton/Farmers Branch; the Texans Can! academies operate as public charter schools that are certified and accredited to award high school and general equivalency diplomas; and

WHEREAS, Students attend Texans Can! academies on a volunteer basis and receive focused attention in an environment conducive to learning; in 2004, more than 6,000 students were enrolled in Texans Can! academies, and more than 1,500 seniors graduated with about 67 percent of them going on to higher education; and

WHEREAS, The Texans Can! academies have changed the lives of over 30,000 at-risk youths; because of the programs' outstanding leaders, educators, and counselors, the Texans Can! academies have helped many young people stay in school, prepare for a better life, and contribute to their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend all who are involved with the Texans Can! academies for their work on behalf of the young people in this state and extend to them congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the founding school; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Texans Can! academies as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Shapiro

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 27, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate