

By: Dutton

H.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Two studies published in January 2006 present a grim  
2 social and economic forecast for the large pool of young black men  
3 in the United States who are tragically disconnected from the  
4 American mainstream; and

5           WHEREAS, In *Black Males Left Behind*, editor Ronald Mincy, a  
6 professor at Columbia University's School of Social Work, concludes  
7 that joblessness and low earnings among "disconnected" young black  
8 men, in addition to greatly diminishing their own individual  
9 chances for success in life, contribute to increases in nonmarital  
10 childbearing and a host of other social problems affecting not only  
11 the African American community but all Americans; and

12           WHEREAS, Similarly, in *Reconnecting Disadvantaged Young Men*,  
13 authors Peter Edelman, Harry Holzer, and Paul Offner analyze  
14 racial, ethnic, educational, and employment characteristics of  
15 young black men, finding that: (1) only half of black men between  
16 the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school are currently working;  
17 (2) roughly one-third of young black men are in jail or prison or on  
18 parole or probation at any time; and (3) 10 percent of young black  
19 men have been disconnected from school and work for a year or more,  
20 and if incarcerated populations are included, the rate rises to 17  
21 percent; and

22           WHEREAS, A study of young black men in this state would help  
23 Texas educators, service providers, and policy makers develop a  
24 uniquely Texas approach to addressing what many social scientists

1 believe is America's most significant social problem; and

2 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin is ideally  
3 qualified to lead a study by several Texas public universities on  
4 the myriad social and economic issues relating to the number of  
5 young black males in Texas between the ages of 14 and 25 who are  
6 disconnected from work and family; and

7 WHEREAS, A leader in social science research, The University  
8 of Texas at Austin boasts a School of Social Work that is well known  
9 for its contributions to a growing body of knowledge about the human  
10 condition, social issues, and service delivery systems to promote  
11 the greater public good; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
13 hereby request The University of Texas at Austin to lead a study by  
14 several Texas public universities on the social and economic issues  
15 relating to the number of unskilled black males in Texas between the  
16 ages of 14 and 25 who are disconnected from work, family, and  
17 society; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the University of Houston, Texas Southern  
19 University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas Tech University, and  
20 Texas A&M University also participate in the study, which is to  
21 include an examination of how young black men in Texas are affected  
22 by the benefits and detriments of living in this state; and, be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
25 copy of this resolution to the presidents of The University of Texas  
26 at Austin, the University of Houston, Texas Southern University,  
27 Prairie View A&M University, Texas Tech University, and Texas A&M

1 University.