

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 475

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos is retiring from  
2 public office after more than 30 years as a member of the Texas  
3 Legislature, and his myriad contributions in behalf of the  
4 residents of Travis County and the State of Texas have earned him  
5 the heartfelt admiration of many; and

6           WHEREAS, Before beginning his 22-year tenure in 1984 as the  
7 senator representing District 14, this esteemed legislator  
8 distinguished himself in the Texas House of Representatives for a  
9 decade; the Galveston native was raised in Bastrop and attended The  
10 University of Texas at Austin, and his primary focus over the course  
11 of 16 legislative sessions has always been to safeguard the future  
12 of our great state and its citizens; and

13           WHEREAS, An Austin resident since 1960, Senator Barrientos  
14 has long been an active supporter of numerous worthwhile causes and  
15 organizations; before his election to public office, he worked as a  
16 community organizer for the National Urban League, a program  
17 officer for VISTA/Peace Corps, and a trainer for the Leadership  
18 Institute for Community Development in our nation's capital; and

19           WHEREAS, Senator Barrientos currently serves on the Senate  
20 Finance, Nominations, and Natural Resources Committees and is vice  
21 chair of the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee;  
22 moreover, his leadership and consensus-building skills are  
23 essential in his roles as chairman of both the Capital Area  
24 Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Communities-in-Schools

1 Advisory Committee; and

2 WHEREAS, Highlights of the senator's legislative career  
3 include the passage of more than two dozen bills aimed at reducing  
4 the dropout rate of students in Texas, and these initiatives have  
5 netted positive results and given countless young people a brighter  
6 future; in addition to advocating for students, Senator Barrientos  
7 is a longtime supporter of the rights of the elderly and of state  
8 employees; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2001, Senator Barrientos received the first-ever  
10 Combined Law Enforcement of Texas Association of Texas Lifetime  
11 Achievement Award; a three-time Texas Public Employees Association  
12 Outstanding Legislator of the Year and recipient of the group's  
13 Lifetime Achievement Award, he is also the recipient of awards from  
14 the Austin Groups for the Elderly, MALDEF, the Coalition of Texans  
15 with Disabilities, as well as many other organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Senator Barrientos enjoys the  
17 love and support of his wife, Emma, and their children, Joseph,  
18 Angelina, Alicia, Adelita, and Veronica; his career as a political  
19 leader in Texas has indeed served this state for the better, and he  
20 may reflect with justifiable pride on the remarkable record of  
21 public service he has forged in the Texas State Capitol; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
24 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize the Honorable  
25 Gonzalo Barrientos for his outstanding 31-year tenure as a Texas  
26 state legislator and commend him for his tireless efforts to  
27 improve the lives of his fellow Texans; and, be it further

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