

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 687

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For four years, a group of young girls from Austin  
2 have dedicated themselves to animal protection and rescue, and  
3 their efforts have helped countless injured, abused, and hungry  
4 animals throughout Texas and beyond; and

5           WHEREAS, Founded by Barbara Attwell Ritter in 2002,  
6 Wildthings was created as a way for students at West Ridge Middle  
7 School to assist animals in whatever way possible, including  
8 feeding pelicans and seagulls, tossing vitamin meatballs into wolf  
9 pens, and cleaning turtle tanks; the club's eight members have  
10 since graduated to Westlake High School, and they are Katherine  
11 Kloc, Savannah Ritter, Alex North, Micaela Lacy, Mindy Martin,  
12 Leslie Reynolds, Christina Hooks, and Katie Pipkin; former members  
13 include Haley Jenkins, Nina Beachum, and Summer Morgan; and

14           WHEREAS, These remarkable teenagers have provided  
15 innumerable hours of volunteer service to rescue organizations such  
16 as the Candy Kitchen Rescue Ranch near Albuquerque, New Mexico,  
17 Mission: Wolf, in Silver Cliff, Colorado, the Animal Rehabilitation  
18 Keep at the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, and the Shield  
19 Ranch near Austin; these organizations have also received financial  
20 contributions from Wildthings, money that has been earned from a  
21 variety of fund-raisers, ranging from bake sales to haunted houses  
22 to babysitting jobs; Wildthings has raised more than \$6,000 over  
23 this past year alone, and members plan to use these funds to travel  
24 to the Big Sur area to aid in habitat restoration; and

1           WHEREAS, The members of Wildthings are a tremendous source of  
2 pride to their families, school, and community, and they set an  
3 inspiring example to people of all ages of what hard work,  
4 perseverance, and a generous spirit can accomplish; now, therefore,  
5 be it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
7 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Barbara Attwell  
8 Ritter and the members of Wildthings for their work in behalf of  
9 animals and extend to them best wishes for success with all their  
10 future endeavors; and, be it further

11           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the  
13 Texas House of Representatives.