

By: Rose

H.C.R. No. 38

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, January 2005 has been designated as the second  
2 National Stalking Awareness Month in the United States; and

3           WHEREAS, The National Center for Victims of Crime initiated  
4 this observance after the death of Peggy Klinke in January 2003; Ms.  
5 Klinke was murdered by a former boyfriend after repeatedly seeking  
6 law enforcement intervention and moving to another state in search  
7 of safety; and

8           WHEREAS, Her tragic story is far from rare; in this country,  
9 more than a million women and nearly 400,000 men are stalked  
10 annually; 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their  
11 lifetime, and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they  
12 know; and

13           WHEREAS, Of those women who have been killed by an intimate  
14 partner, 76 percent were stalked by that partner in the year before  
15 their death, and 81 percent of those women who are stalked by a  
16 current or former intimate partner are at some point physically  
17 assaulted by that individual; and

18           WHEREAS, Victims of stalking experience anxiety, insomnia,  
19 social dysfunction, lost work hours and productivity, and severe  
20 depression at a much higher rate than the general population; they  
21 are also forced to take such drastic measures to protect themselves  
22 as obtaining court orders, changing jobs, changing their  
23 identities, and relocating; and

24           WHEREAS, Stalking is a crime under federal law and under the

1 laws of all 50 states and the District of Columbia; national  
2 organizations, local victim services, prosecutors' offices, and  
3 police departments are working to further develop effective  
4 responses to this terrifying crime, which cuts across race,  
5 culture, gender, age, and economic status; and

6 WHEREAS, It is vital that the public understand the  
7 seriousness of this offense, as well as be aware of the resources  
8 that are available to those who have been targeted by a stalker;  
9 moreover, measures to enhance the response of the criminal justice  
10 system to stalking and stalking victims are to be strongly  
11 encouraged; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
13 hereby recognize January 2005 as National Stalking Awareness Month  
14 and commend all those who are working to combat this intolerable  
15 aggression.