

By: Berman

H.C.R. No. 66

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The education of our children and young people is  
2 not an isolated activity that occurs solely within the confines of a  
3 classroom, laboratory, or auditorium, but rather is an ongoing  
4 process that encompasses the whole of their individual experiences  
5 during the formative school-age years; and

6           WHEREAS, Consequently, much of what a child or young adult  
7 experiences outside the classroom can have a significant impact on  
8 that individual's ability and readiness as a student to engage in  
9 the academic activities that take place inside the classroom; and

10           WHEREAS, A troubled youth beset by problems outside of school  
11 will, in many instances, find it difficult to set aside those  
12 problems once inside the classroom, and those problems often become  
13 an impediment to that student's learning; conversely, a student  
14 whose needs are met and who enjoys positive experiences and  
15 reinforcement outside the classroom will not be distracted by unmet  
16 needs; and

17           WHEREAS, While we are privileged to have many dedicated  
18 teachers and school administrators who are deeply committed to the  
19 education of our children, their challenging task is often made  
20 more difficult by their students' circumstances at home and within  
21 the community, which the schools, with their limited resources,  
22 cannot address; and

23           WHEREAS, Fortunately, there exist numerous organizations  
24 whose missions are complementary to that of our public

1 schools--namely, to further the physical, moral, and social  
2 development of children and young adults, instill in them the  
3 desire to learn and succeed, and help them fulfill their potential;  
4 and

5         WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America (BSA), for example, has a  
6 90-year history of helping to shape and mold the values and  
7 character of youth and strengthening not only young people but also  
8 families and communities through its comprehensive programs; in  
9 addition to chartering BSA local councils, the organization also  
10 issues charters to schools and community organizations, which use  
11 scouting programs with BSA support as part of their own youth work;  
12 and

13         WHEREAS, The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization similarly  
14 has a 100-year history of community service and is the oldest and  
15 largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, matching  
16 caring adults with school-age children in one-to-one  
17 relationships; studies show that participating students are 52  
18 percent less likely to skip school than peers who are not in the  
19 program; students in the school-based Big Brothers Big Sisters In  
20 School program also show improved performance and attendance,  
21 better grades, and greater self-confidence; and

22         WHEREAS, Another noteworthy organization that has had a  
23 significant impact on our youth is the Texas Alliance of Boys &  
24 Girls Clubs; active in all types of communities across the state,  
25 the organization carries out its mission of inspiring all young  
26 people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to  
27 realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring

1 citizens by providing programs designed to promote the development  
2 of well-rounded individuals, instilling in them a sense of  
3 competence, usefulness, belonging, and empowerment; altogether,  
4 the Boys & Girls Clubs of Texas serve more than 375,000 youngsters  
5 each year with many of the approximately 300 club sites located in  
6 schools, public housing, and even on military installations; and

7 WHEREAS, Area YMCA and YWCA branches are found in many  
8 communities large and small, and no community is without its local  
9 church or churches; for organizations such as these, youth outreach  
10 is more than an incidental service but an essential mission and is  
11 often at the core of an organization's existence; and

12 WHEREAS, By enlisting the help and support of these many fine  
13 youth-oriented organizations, schools, school districts, and  
14 school organizations can not only better focus their resources but,  
15 by facilitating or participating in the various youth programs,  
16 also ensure that each student receives the services and assistance  
17 necessary to develop that student's unique potential; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
20 hereby encourage schools, school districts, and school  
21 organizations to solicit help, guidance, and support from  
22 organizations that administer youth programs as well as from  
23 churches within their respective communities.