

By: Raymond

H.C.R. No. 91

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, federally funded Upward
2 Bound programs have helped countless young Americans enter college,
3 graduate, and achieve success, enabling them to participate more
4 fully in America's economic and social life; and

5 WHEREAS, Established in 1964, Upward Bound was designed to
6 recruit and assist high school students from low-income families,
7 students from families where neither parent is a college graduate,
8 and low-income, first-generation military veterans who are
9 preparing to enter college; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, 770 Upward Bound programs across the country
11 are helping tens of thousands of young men and women prepare for and
12 succeed in their college careers by providing instruction in
13 literature, composition, foreign languages, mathematics, and
14 science on host college campuses after school, on Saturdays, and
15 during summer vacations; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to these traditional Upward Bound
17 programs, there are Upward Bound Math Science and Veterans Upward
18 Bound programs that focus more narrowly either on the academic
19 skills they teach or the student populations they serve; and

20 WHEREAS, In Texas alone, there are nearly 60 such programs,
21 at public and private four-year senior colleges and universities
22 and at junior and community colleges across the state; and

23 WHEREAS, While all Upward Bound programs must provide
24 instruction in the areas noted earlier, they also provide a host of

1 other services, including academic, financial, or personal
2 counseling; exposure to academic programs and cultural events;
3 tutorial services; mentoring programs; information on higher
4 education opportunities; assistance in completing college entrance
5 and financial aid applications; college entrance exam preparation;
6 and career-oriented work study opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, A U.S. Department of Education report on the
8 effectiveness of these types of programs found that, while Upward
9 Bound programs did not affect enrollment at colleges and
10 universities, they did have a "substantial impact on high school
11 and postsecondary outcomes for certain groups of students," namely,
12 the very populations targeted by these programs; studies also show
13 that students in the Upward Bound programs are four times more
14 likely to earn an undergraduate degree than those students from
15 similar backgrounds who did not participate; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the programs' track record in helping
17 countless at-risk, low-income, and first-generation college
18 students succeed in their pursuit of a college degree, President
19 George W. Bush recently submitted a proposed budget for federal
20 fiscal year 2006 that may result in the elimination of funding for
21 Upward Bound and several similar programs that specialize in the
22 recruitment of students from populations that historically have
23 been significantly underrepresented in higher education
24 institutions in the U.S.; and

25 WHEREAS, The budget, which was unveiled February 7, 2005,
26 proposes cutting \$4.3 billion from 48 programs in the Department of
27 Education, shifting funds away from proven college outreach

1 programs; and

2 WHEREAS, Over the years, congress has demonstrated its
3 support for our national commitment to providing educational
4 opportunity for all Americans regardless of socioeconomic
5 background or circumstance by establishing a series of federally
6 funded programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965,
7 and it is incumbent upon the members of congress to affirm their
8 continued support by maintaining the necessary funding for those
9 programs; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
12 maintain its support for the U.S. Department of Education's Upward
13 Bound programs by not cutting program funding in the federal fiscal
14 year 2006 budget; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
17 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
18 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
19 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
20 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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