

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 263

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Communities in Schools-Central Texas, Inc. (CIS),
2 celebrates 20 years of involvement in Austin area high schools in
3 2005, providing a fitting opportunity to salute this exceptional
4 organization; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1985, a group of business, education, and
6 community leaders founded a nonprofit organization to increase the
7 graduation rate at Central Texas schools; operating on a minimal
8 budget, they named their program Communities in Schools and hired a
9 staff of eight to offer counseling in five Austin public high
10 schools; this determined group reached out to the city's neediest
11 students, and their success helped CIS become the influential
12 organization it is today; and

13 WHEREAS, Since its inception, CIS has expanded into 44
14 elementary, middle, and high school campuses throughout Travis,
15 Hays, Caldwell, and Williamson Counties, and currently operates
16 with an annual budget of \$5 million and a staff of over 200; each
17 year, more than 24,000 students receive educational services from
18 CIS through counseling, preemployment skills training, academic
19 enhancement, health and human services, enrichment activities, and
20 parental involvement; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that CIS works with students most
22 at risk of dropping out, external evaluations have found that 97
23 percent of those students involved with CIS remain in school and 88
24 percent show marked improvement in grades, attendance, and

1 behavior; and

2 WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of its director, Donald M.
3 Loving, CIS continues to fulfill its mission as a dropout
4 prevention program by providing effective social services and links
5 to resources in the community, and as a result, it has helped
6 thousands of young people stay in school and prepare for successful
7 lives as adults; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate the staff and volunteers of
10 Communities in Schools-Central Texas, Inc., for their commitment to
11 Texas youth and that they be commended for 20 years of exemplary
12 service to their community; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for CIS as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
15 of Representatives.