

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 874

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In observance of Fair Housing Month, the Border Fair
2 Housing and Economic Justice Center (BFHC) in El Paso is holding its
3 2005 Border Fair Housing and Colonia Summit on April 12-14,
4 providing an apt opportunity to recognize the important mission of
5 this organization; and

6 WHEREAS, Founded in 2004 by community leaders who live and
7 work in the border region with support from the U.S. Department of
8 Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing Initiatives Program
9 (FHIP) and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the BFHC
10 is a private, nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to
11 advocating for and implementing fair housing practices in the
12 colonias and border communities; the first FHIP in El Paso, it is
13 the only such organization along the U.S.-Mexico border serving
14 both Texas and New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, The center was established in response to evidence
16 of predatory and discriminatory practices for potential home buyers
17 in the region; studies showed that women and Hispanics in the
18 colonias and border areas were particularly vulnerable to lending
19 companies who take advantage of low-income residents; the BFHC is
20 committed to the goals of equal access to credit, the development of
21 decent and affordable housing, community development, the
22 expansion of small business opportunities, and economic justice;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Thirty-seven years ago, the federal Fair Housing Act

1 was passed to prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, and
2 financing of dwellings on the basis of race, color, national
3 origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability, and the BFHC
4 has taken on the challenge of ensuring compliance with federal,
5 state, and local laws; to that end, the center is educating citizens
6 about their rights as borrowers through consumer outreach programs,
7 testing to uncover potential housing discrimination, processing
8 complaints about unfair practices, and pursuing legal action
9 against lenders who may be breaking the law; and

10 WHEREAS, All Americans are entitled to equitable and
11 affordable housing opportunities, and the Border Fair Housing and
12 Economic Justice Center in El Paso is making sure that Texans in the
13 borderlands share in that important right; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize the Border Fair Housing and Economic
16 Justice Center during Fair Housing Month in April and extend to all
17 those associated with this worthy organization sincere best wishes
18 for a productive 2005 Border Fair Housing and Colonia Summit and for
19 continued success with their important work; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the center as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.