

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 993

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Since 1987, the number of children in foster care in  
2 the United States has doubled; currently, more than a half million  
3 American youths are living in foster homes because they cannot live  
4 with their birth parents, often as a result of abuse or neglect; and

5           WHEREAS, In Travis County alone, while nearly 1,300 area  
6 youths are in foster care, including emergency shelters, individual  
7 family homes, group homes, therapeutic homes, and residential  
8 facilities, the number of available foster parents runs perilously  
9 low; accordingly, the Travis County Children's Protective Services  
10 Board has identified the recruitment and retention of foster and  
11 adoptive parents as a priority initiative for the community; and

12           WHEREAS, National Foster Care Month will be observed in May  
13 to honor the generous and compassionate individuals who serve as  
14 foster parents and to call attention to the invaluable services  
15 they perform and the need for more foster parents; and

16           WHEREAS, Every child has the right to learn and grow in a safe  
17 environment and receive proper care and protection; those  
18 individuals who open their homes and hearts to children whose  
19 families are in crisis play a vital role in helping those children  
20 heal and launching them into successful adulthood, and it is a  
21 privilege to recognize foster parents in the community as well as to  
22 acknowledge the vital efforts of the volunteers and staff who work  
23 within the county foster care system; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby extend profound appreciation to the foster  
2 families of Travis County and the organizations and staff that  
3 support the foster care system and encourage citizens to get  
4 involved as foster parents, advocates, mentors, and volunteers, or  
5 in the myriad other ways that they can positively affect the lives  
6 of these deserving young Texans.