

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 1162

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Since 1998, a National Day of Silence has been
2 observed on high school and college campuses across the country to
3 raise awareness of the silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
4 transgender (LGBT) students in our schools and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Participants take a nine-hour vow of silence on that
6 day to recognize and protest the harassment, prejudice, and
7 discrimination that many LGBT individuals face on a daily basis;
8 the Day of Silence enables participants to show in a highly visible
9 way that they support LGBT rights and promote safety and respect for
10 those individuals in their schools and communities; and

11 WHEREAS, The vow of silence also provides a space for
12 personal reflection about the consequences of being silent and
13 silenced; LGBT students often feel forced to hide their sexual
14 orientation, gender identity, or gender expression because they
15 fear physical or verbal harassment; they might also be made to feel
16 invisible by a school curriculum that makes no mention of LGBT
17 people and events; and

18 WHEREAS, By taking silence, a tool that traditionally has
19 been used to deprive people of their voices and power, and turning
20 it into an intentional group activity, participants in the Day of
21 Silence truly make a powerful statement of resistance; and

22 WHEREAS, Whether it is used to educate classmates on the
23 damaging effects of anti-LGBT bias, to encourage inclusion of LGBT
24 issues and events in school curricula, or to promote the adoption of

1 nondiscrimination or anti-harassment policies, the observance of a
2 National Day of Silence presents an important opportunity to create
3 more inclusive school and community environments for all
4 individuals; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature hereby recognize the National Day of Silence on April
7 13, 2005, and encourage all Texans to work toward the promotion of
8 safety and respect in our schools and communities for everyone,
9 regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender
10 expression.