

By: Zedler

H.R. No. 1227

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Head trauma is the leading cause of disability and  
2 death among infants and children, and during Child Abuse Prevention  
3 Month in April, the Shaken Baby Alliance of Fort Worth is calling  
4 attention to a particular form of abusive head trauma that is often  
5 borne of frustration or ignorance; and

6           WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) occurs when a caregiver  
7 violently shakes or slams a child, usually to stop the child from  
8 crying; the head and neck of a child younger than two are especially  
9 vulnerable, and the whiplash motion caused by violent shaking  
10 results in the tearing and bleeding of delicate veins over the  
11 child's brain, which in turn cause pressure that destroys brain  
12 tissue; statistics show that between 25 to 30 percent of SBS victims  
13 die and that those who do survive usually suffer from one or more  
14 devastating disorders, which may include permanent brain damage,  
15 cerebral palsy, paralysis, blindness, or severe learning and  
16 behavior problems; and

17           WHEREAS, Symptoms of SBS range from mild forms of  
18 irritability, poor feeding, vomiting, and lethargy to more serious  
19 symptoms, such as breathing difficulties, seizures, comas, and  
20 death; and

21           WHEREAS, The Shaken Baby Alliance of Fort Worth offers  
22 support and information for families affected by SBS as well as for  
23 professionals needing information and referral services; founded  
24 in 1998 by three mothers whose children were victims of SBS, the

1 alliance's threefold mission consists of support for victim  
2 families and professionals, prevention of SBS through education,  
3 and justice for the innocent victims as shaking a baby is considered  
4 a serious crime; and

5 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that as many as 50 percent of  
6 teenagers and adult caregivers do not know that shaking a baby is  
7 dangerous and can be fatal; it is the aim of the Shaken Baby  
8 Alliance to share this vital information with everyone who cares  
9 for a child, and Child Abuse Prevention Month in April offers an  
10 excellent opportunity to disseminate this important message to all  
11 Texans; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby commend the Shaken Baby Alliance during Child  
14 Abuse Prevention Month for their invaluable efforts to help  
15 affected families and extend to all those associated with the  
16 alliance sincere best wishes for success in the fight against  
17 Shaken Baby Syndrome; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the  
20 Texas House of Representatives.