

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas takes pleasure
3 in recognizing the Texas Juvenile Justice System and in declaring
4 April 19 Texas Juvenile Justice Day 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Texas and county governments are
6 partners in providing one of the most progressive juvenile justice
7 systems in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Texas Juvenile Justice System is comprised of
9 169 community-based probation departments, which serve youths and
10 families in all 254 counties in the state; the Texas Juvenile
11 Probation Commission, which provides oversight for the probation
12 departments; and the Texas Youth Commission, which provides
13 institutional programs and services to high-risk juvenile
14 offenders; and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature extensively studied and
16 analyzed the juvenile justice system and in 1995 made sweeping
17 reforms that provided for greater accountability for offenders,
18 broader options for the prosecution of juvenile offenders,
19 increased public safety, focused prevention and early intervention
20 programs, and increased funding for the entire juvenile justice
21 system; and

22 WHEREAS, With increased resources and guidelines, juvenile
23 justice system professionals are able to make a positive difference
24 in the lives of many troubled Texas youths and their families; and

1 WHEREAS, The reforms that began in 1995 have produced
2 dramatic results; between 1995 and 2003, the juvenile-age
3 population has increased 20 percent; however, referrals of youths
4 to the justice system decreased by 20 percent, arrests decreased by
5 20 percent, violent felony offenses decreased by 27 percent, and
6 the total number of juveniles certified as adults decreased by 77
7 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, Statistics show that the State of Texas has avoided
9 millions of dollars in correctional costs because of the effective
10 use of probation services and rehabilitative programs that reduce
11 the number of referrals to the juvenile justice system; and

12 WHEREAS, The juvenile probation departments handle 98
13 percent of the referrals of youths to the juvenile justice system
14 each year through the efforts of 2,880 certified juvenile probation
15 officers and 4,106 certified detention officers; and

16 WHEREAS, Dedicated probation, detention, and corrections
17 officers are represented by the Juvenile Justice Association of
18 Texas, whose mission is to promote advocacy for Texas children by
19 providing quality juvenile services through professional
20 development, leadership, education, and training; and

21 WHEREAS, The persons who enter the field of juvenile justice
22 accept a great responsibility to the youths and families of Texas;
23 they work tirelessly and courageously to rehabilitate the lives of
24 troubled youths and maintain the security and safety of our state's
25 communities; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
27 hereby commend the outstanding professionals of our juvenile

1 justice system for their vital contributions to the citizens of
2 this state and extend sincere appreciation to them on Texas
3 Juvenile Justice Day 2005; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in their
5 honor and as an expression of high regard from the Texas
6 Legislature.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 20 was adopted by the Senate
on April 19, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 20 was adopted by the House
on April 29, 2005.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor