By: Barrientos S.C.R. No. 20

1	CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
<b></b>	CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The persons who enter the field of juvenile justice accept a great responsibility to the youths and families of Texas; they work tirelessly and courageously to rehabilitate the lives of troubled youths and maintain the security and safety of our state's 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

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- 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.

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- 1 Commending the professionals of the Texas Juvenile Justice System
- 2 and recognizing April 19 as Texas Juvenile Justice Day 2005.