

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.

S.C.R. No. 20

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