

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 68

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Lone Star State depends on the leadership and  
2 dedication of people such as Chris Kyker of Abilene, who has  
3 advocated in behalf of some of the state's most vulnerable citizens  
4 for more than four decades; and

5           WHEREAS, Mrs. Kyker attended Abilene Christian University,  
6 where she earned a bachelor's degree in English and drama in 1946  
7 and went on to earn master's degrees in speech education and  
8 communication; she worked as a speech and theater instructor at her  
9 alma mater and Hardin-Simmons University before entering social  
10 services in 1963 as the executive director of the Abilene Mental  
11 Health Association, where she worked for more than a decade; in  
12 1974, she helped found the Area Agency on Aging of West Central  
13 Texas, an organization that offers a range of services for people  
14 over 60, and served as its director for five years; and

15           WHEREAS, Appointed by Governor Bill Clements, she  
16 subsequently served as founding executive director of the Texas  
17 Department on Aging from 1979 to 1984 and state coordinator for the  
18 White House Conference on Aging in 1981; moreover, Mrs. Kyker  
19 worked for two years as a program specialist for the Texas  
20 Department of Human Resources; she returned to the nonprofit sector  
21 in 1986 as founding president and chief executive officer of  
22 Disability Resources, Inc., an Abilene-based organization that  
23 provides residential care, training, and jobs for developmentally  
24 disabled individuals; since 1992, she has served as consultant for

1 a similar venture, Rainbow Omega, Inc.; and

2 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan is committed to public policy  
3 development as a leader of numerous groups, including the Texas  
4 Health Institute Long Term Care Industry Council, for which she  
5 serves as chair, the Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center,  
6 the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research, the Governor's  
7 Advisory Council on Physical Fitness, the University of  
8 Indianapolis Center of Excellence for Aging and Community, and the  
9 Abilene Christian University Pruett Gerontology Center, to name but  
10 a few; in addition, she represents Taylor and Jones Counties in the  
11 Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, for which she served as speaker  
12 from 2002 to 2006; and

13 WHEREAS, With passion and integrity, Chris Kyker has worked  
14 to improve the lives of countless individuals, and she is most  
15 deserving of special recognition for her outstanding  
16 accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby honor Chris Kyker on her many years of service in behalf of  
19 Texans and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success  
20 and happiness; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for Mrs. Kyker as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
23 House of Representatives and Senate.