

By: Dutton

H.C.R. No. 82

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The fundamental importance to our state of equality
2 and education is exemplified by their prominent inclusion in the
3 Texas Constitution, which provides that equality under the law
4 shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed,
5 or national origin and also provides for the maintenance, support,
6 and direction of a first-class university system; taken together,
7 these provisions should guarantee a sound, thriving academic
8 environment for all students, including those of varying racial and
9 ethnic backgrounds who make up almost half of the student
10 population in Texas' public universities; and

11 WHEREAS, But the reality at many modern campuses is one of
12 increasing violence and animosity between different ethnic groups,
13 often involving incidents of hate speech or worse; unfortunately,
14 these incidents affect not only the persons directly involved, but
15 the student body at large, undermining the conditions necessary for
16 constructive interethnic dialogue and creating an atmosphere of
17 insecurity and alienation, which may limit a student's ability to
18 take full advantage of the educational opportunities available at
19 our universities; and

20 WHEREAS, Moreover, the insecurity prevalent in an intolerant
21 academic environment reduces a student's commitment to the
22 university and may lead to early departure, thereby shattering the
23 student's dreams of personal achievement and diminishing an
24 important resource for the future of our state; higher education

1 contributes \$33.2 billion annually to the Texas economy, and
2 earnings and productivity associated with higher education's
3 students increase the state's economic capacity by more than \$23
4 billion per year; and

5 WHEREAS, Universities around the nation have adopted codes of
6 conduct and related student awareness programs aimed at reducing
7 hate speech and preventing discriminatory harassment; by doing the
8 same, Texas universities can deliver on those promises to advance
9 equality and education outlined by the state constitution,
10 fostering academic environments of the highest standard, avoiding
11 potential economic loss to the state, and living up to the most
12 noble principles upon which our nation was founded; now, therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby direct the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to
16 develop and implement policies and programs to be adopted by Texas
17 universities that address the incidence of discrimination and
18 harassment on campus; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
20 copies of this resolution to the commissioner of higher education
21 of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the president of
22 each Texas public university campus, and the chief executive
23 officer of Texas A&M University-Galveston.