

By: Rose, Raymond

H.C.R. No. 97

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On November 20, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson
2 announced that Camp Gary in San Marcos, Texas, would serve as the
3 site of a new federal vocational training facility, and for more
4 than 40 years, the Gary Job Corps Center has contributed to
5 fulfilling the hopes and dreams of thousands of disadvantaged
6 youths in Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, The Gary Job Corps Center, the largest such facility
8 in the nation, has provided ongoing training and education classes
9 for at-risk youths in Texas, offering instructional classes in over
10 two dozen fields, including business computers, auto diagnostics,
11 health care, heating and cooling, and construction trades; ESL
12 (English as a Second Language) courses are also available, along
13 with driver's training and academic subjects leading to the
14 completion of a GED; and

15 WHEREAS, The accomplishments of the Gary Job Corps Center
16 extend beyond the classroom to assisting in the construction of
17 community facilities in Central Texas, and in 2002 students
18 assisted the United States Army Corps of Engineers with an effort to
19 prevent flooding in Austin; the center has been recognized numerous
20 times over the years, receiving four awards at the 2005 Job Corps
21 Region IV Vocational Conference in Dallas, including first place
22 for vocational production and an award for the center's Business
23 and Industry Council; and

24 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the United States Department of

1 Labor National Office of Job Corps is considering the elimination
2 of 240 student training slots at the Gary Job Corps Center by April
3 2007; the elimination of these slots would result in approximately
4 360 Texas youths losing the opportunity to participate in Job Corps
5 programs at the center; additionally, 63 staff positions would be
6 permanently eliminated, the local community would experience an
7 economic loss of nearly \$4.5 million, and local employers would
8 lose the valuable asset of well-trained employees; and

9 WHEREAS, While Texas has not been immune to a nationwide
10 decline in Job Corps enrollment, the state is committed to the
11 success of the Gary Job Corps Center and is prepared to assist the
12 center in recruitment efforts to achieve and maintain 100 percent
13 capacity; the at-risk youths of Texas deserve every opportunity
14 afforded to them, and the elimination of the student training slots
15 at the facility would be a detriment not only to prospective
16 students, but to the State of Texas as a whole; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby urge the United States Department of Labor to reconsider the
20 proposed reduction in student training slots at the Gary Job Corps
21 Center in San Marcos, Texas; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
23 official copy of this resolution to the secretary of the United
24 States Department of Labor.