

By: Madden

H.C.R. No. 252

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Isela Gutierrez and Will Harrell have championed the
2 struggle for social justice, and their actions have resulted in a
3 positive change for this state; and

4 WHEREAS, Serving as coordinator of the Texas Coalition
5 Advocating Justice for Juveniles since February 2006, Ms. Gutierrez
6 is a principal advocate in exposing to the Texas Legislature the
7 structural flaws of and abuses occurring within the Texas Youth
8 Commission; in August 2006, she appeared before the Senate Criminal
9 Justice Committee interim hearing in McAllen, issuing visionary
10 demands for reform that ultimately were included in S.B. 103;
11 throughout the 80th legislative session, she has been a constant
12 and effective voice for reform and an indispensable expert resource
13 for staff and members; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrell, co-chair of the Texas Coalition
15 Advocating Justice for Juveniles and executive director of the
16 American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, has been an indefatigable
17 advocate for the rights of incarcerated Texans since the 77th
18 legislative session; as one of the most effective voices for civil
19 rights in the Texas Legislature for the past seven years, he has
20 worked to encourage passage of the racial profiling law, the Fair
21 Defense Act, and the "Tulia bills"; his expertise in Texas
22 government and his relationships on both sides of the aisle have
23 helped to put the reform concepts of Ms. Gutierrez into legislative
24 motion; and

1 WHEREAS, Together, they have garnered the critical support
2 and political clout of the Texas League of United Latin American
3 Citizens and the Texas Conference of the NAACP, which Mr. Harrell
4 has represented throughout the process; Ms. Gutierrez has shared
5 her leadership with the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, and this
6 valued organization has in turn provided its vital expertise,
7 network of supporters, and guidance; moreover, Mr. Harrell and Ms.
8 Gutierrez were able to ensure that the Texas Legislature heard the
9 voices of parents whose children have been in TYC and of formerly
10 incarcerated youths; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Harrell have served as vital
12 resources for the legislature in its efforts to address the
13 problems of the Texas Youth Commission, and they are most deserving
14 of special commendation; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby honor Isela Gutierrez and Will Harrell and extend to them
17 sincere gratitude and best wishes for continued success; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
20 for Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Harrell as an expression of high regard by
21 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.