

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 794

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the  
2 establishment of the Political Asylum Project of Austin; and

3           WHEREAS, In 1987 many Central Americans fled war and unrest  
4 in their home countries and sought safety in the United States; PAPA  
5 was founded to help provide legal assistance to those refugees  
6 entering Texas; and

7           WHEREAS, Through the years PAPA has broadened its reach to  
8 offer free and low-cost legal services and education to immigrants,  
9 refugees, and asylum seekers from 75 countries around the world;  
10 while most of its clients still hail from Central America, in recent  
11 years PAPA has aided over 1,500 men, women, and children a year from  
12 such diverse locales as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, the Czech  
13 Republic, England, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya,  
14 South Korea, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey,  
15 and Vietnam; and

16           WHEREAS, PAPA's several programs are tailored to meet the  
17 individual needs and concerns of its clients; the Asylum Seeker  
18 Assistance Program, the Program Representing Immigrant Survivors  
19 of Abuse, and the Family Based Immigration, Adjustment, and  
20 Citizenship Program provide legal counsel to immigrants and asylum  
21 seekers in particular situations; the Immigrant Victims of Crime  
22 Protection Project promotes and enforces the use of the Trafficking  
23 and Violence Protection Act of 2000, and the Detention Education  
24 and Representation Program conducts know-your-rights presentations

1 to immigrants detained by the Department of Homeland Security; and

2 WHEREAS, PAPA's excellent website offers links to such  
3 resources as the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and the  
4 United States citizenship and immigration services; there are links  
5 as well to foreign embassies and resources for victims of violence,  
6 and the organization is also active in immigration reform; and

7 WHEREAS, Having grown from only two employees in 1987 to  
8 almost 10 in recent years, the center employs three full-time  
9 attorneys; it was recognized in 2002 by the *Austin Chronicle* with a  
10 Best of Austin award for its legal services, and in 2006, PAPA  
11 received the Community Service Award from the Hispanic Issues  
12 Section of the State Bar of Texas for its leadership and  
13 contributions to the Hispanic community; and

14 WHEREAS, Through its high-quality legal representation and  
15 committed advocacy, the Political Asylum Project of Austin has  
16 offered hope for a new life to thousands of men, women, and children  
17 from all over the globe and made Central Texas a safer place in  
18 which to live for immigrants and their families; now, therefore, be  
19 it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby congratulate the Political Asylum Project of  
22 Austin on its 20th anniversary and offer its hard-working and  
23 committed staff best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for the Political Asylum Project of Austin as an  
27 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.