

By: Farias

H.R. No. 1267

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In September 2006, the Texas Council on Autism and
2 Pervasive Development Disorders recommended that the Texas
3 Education Agency apply for a State Improvement Grant to help
4 establish and maintain a resource center to train educators and
5 school district staff about best practices for identifying,
6 educating, and providing services to people with autism spectrum
7 disorders (ASD); such a resource center would help ensure adequate
8 preparation and development of all school personnel involved in
9 educating students with such disorders; and

10 WHEREAS, A comprehensive and systematic educator
11 professional development system is urgently needed in order to
12 provide the highly qualified teachers and other school personnel
13 who will help students with ASD to reach their full potential and
14 maximum independence as adults; and

15 WHEREAS, Texas is the only state that has not requested and
16 received funding through a State Improvement Grant from the federal
17 Office of Special Education, despite the fact that these grant
18 funds would reduce future costs to the state, even as the Texas
19 Legislature is considering several proposals, such as the use of
20 private school vouchers, in an effort to provide the specialized
21 instruction those students need; unfortunately, the deadline to
22 apply for a State Personnel Development Grant is March 27, 2007,
23 necessitating immediate action; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby request that the Texas Education Agency act
2 immediately to apply for State Personnel Development Grant Program
3 funding for a resource center to train school personnel working
4 with students with autism spectrum disorders.