

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1302

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Demonstrating a thirst for knowledge and an
2 unflagging determination to succeed, Geronimo Rodriguez, Jr., went
3 from picking fruit as a migrant farm worker to helping select
4 President Clinton's cabinet as a member of the White House staff;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Growing up, this Hidalgo County native spent eight
7 months a year traveling from the Rio Grande Valley to the
8 Northwestern United States, harvesting seasonal crops with his
9 parents; he became the first person in his family to earn a high
10 school diploma, graduating near the top of his class, and received a
11 College Assistance Migrant Program scholarship to St. Edward's
12 University in Austin, where he achieved another first in his family
13 in 1990 when he graduated from college; following his instincts for
14 law and politics, he took a job with the Texas Attorney General, and
15 in 1991 became the state field director for Bill Clinton's first
16 presidential campaign; and

17 WHEREAS, A few years later, after earning a law degree from
18 The University of Texas, he was asked to be the deputy statewide
19 director for Arizona during President Clinton's reelection
20 campaign; in that capacity, he was instrumental in the state
21 electing a Democrat for the first time in more than 50 years; and

22 WHEREAS, His reputation for excellence earned him a job in
23 the nation's capital as chief of staff for the Office of
24 Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department

1 of Labor; in addition, he served as acting associate director in the
2 White House Office of Presidential Personnel, where he had the
3 opportunity to recommend one-third of President Clinton's
4 senior-level appointments, and Mr. Rodriguez further distinguished
5 himself as counsel to the solicitor at the U.S. Department of Labor
6 from 1999 to 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, He then returned to Texas and joined the firm of
8 Leonard Frost Levin Van Court & Marsh in Austin; remaining active in
9 politics, he was the state director and Colorado base vote director
10 for the Democratic presidential ticket in 2004; he currently serves
11 as the vice president of diversity and community outreach with
12 Seton Family of Hospitals; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodriguez was named a 2007 Austin Under Forty
14 winner in recognition of his professional achievements as well as
15 his contributions to his community, which include his service on
16 the boards of the Austin Public Library Foundation and the Austin
17 Young Lawyers Association; he has further distinguished himself as
18 a member of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, as the
19 chair of the Hispanic Bar Association of Austin Foundation, and as a
20 member of the Austin public television station's Hispanic Network
21 of Advisors; and

22 WHEREAS, With enthusiasm and sincere dedication, Geronimo
23 Rodriguez, Jr., has made many important contributions in behalf of
24 his fellow citizens, especially helping to advance the role of
25 Hispanics in the fields of politics and law, and his passionate
26 involvement will undoubtedly continue to benefit Texans for years
27 to come; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
2 Legislature hereby commend Geronimo Rodriguez, Jr., for his
3 exemplary public engagement and extend to him sincere best wishes
4 for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Mr. Rodriguez as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.