

By: Bolton

H.R. No. 1482

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Alison Brock, the chief of staff for State  
2 Representative Sylvester Turner, has rendered exceptional service  
3 to the people of this state through her decisive action in behalf of  
4 incarcerated youth; and

5           WHEREAS, When repeated complaints about suspected sexual  
6 abuse at the West Texas State School in Pyote failed to receive  
7 serious attention from TYC officials, a volunteer math teacher at  
8 the facility contacted a Texas Ranger, who launched an  
9 investigation in February 2005; the ranger filed his report,  
10 detailing serious allegations of abuse, in April 2005, but a year  
11 and a half later the case had yet to be prosecuted and remained out  
12 of the public eye; and

13           WHEREAS, By chance, Ms. Brock learned in late October 2006 of  
14 the ranger's investigation and the fact that the case had not yet  
15 been taken to the grand jury; she promptly contacted the ranger to  
16 request a copy of his report and then alerted officials in Austin;  
17 her sense of urgency stemmed from the gravity of the offenses  
18 alleged and from the fact that the statute of limitations on  
19 prosecution would expire in 2007; and

20           WHEREAS, After being informed by Ms. Brock about the  
21 situation in Ward County, the governor's office arranged for the  
22 attorney general's office to provide critical assistance in  
23 prosecuting the case there, and steps are now being taken to reform  
24 the TYC; and

1           WHEREAS, Widely respected for the skill and dedication that  
2 she brings to her work, Alison Brock first joined Representative  
3 Turner's staff in 1992 and quickly developed an interest in  
4 juvenile justice; to gain more knowledge of that field, she earned a  
5 master's degree from The University of Texas LBJ School of Public  
6 Affairs; she subsequently served as a juvenile probation officer  
7 and as director of both the ACLU's Prison and Jail Accountability  
8 Project and its campaign to educate ex-offenders about their right  
9 to vote; in 2006 she returned to Representative Turner's staff as  
10 his legislative director; and

11           WHEREAS, Ms. Brock's longtime involvement in the community is  
12 equally reflective of her commitment to constructive action; she  
13 has been a board member of the Austin YWCA and the Texas Ratepayers'  
14 Organization to Save Energy, as well as a volunteer for Meals on  
15 Wheels, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and a spirituality/12-step  
16 program that serves women in prison; and

17           WHEREAS, In respecting the humanity of vulnerable  
18 populations, and in striving to protect them from abuses of power,  
19 Alison Brock has exemplified the highest standards of public  
20 service and contributed immeasurably to improving the system by  
21 which Texas seeks to rehabilitate its youthful offenders; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby honor Alison Brock for her vital role in  
25 bringing needed attention to a matter of serious public concern and  
26 extend to her profound appreciation for all she has done to protect  
27 youth in the care of this state; and, be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for Ms. Brock as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
3 House of Representatives.