

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An innovative and enterprising young Texan,
2 13-year-old Joel Williams, Jr., of Troy, has designed a clever new
3 invention and started his own company to market it; and

4 WHEREAS, When he was nine years old, Mr. Williams noticed
5 that his one-year-old sister, Jatara, kept putting her shoes on the
6 wrong feet; and

7 WHEREAS, Young Mr. Williams was uniquely qualified to address
8 this problem; members of his family had been track and field
9 champions over the years, and his father, Joel Williams, Sr., who
10 had competed in his youth, is now a research and development
11 engineer for Wilsonart International in Temple; and

12 WHEREAS, Watching his sister's difficulty with left and
13 right, it occurred to Joel Williams that if her shoes could talk,
14 they could tell her which was which, and so he came up with the idea
15 for two small electronic buttons that attach to a child's shoes;
16 when pressed, each button says either "This is your left shoe" or
17 "This is your right shoe" in English or Spanish; and

18 WHEREAS, Working with his father, Mr. Williams designed a
19 prototype and found a manufacturer in China; the device, called the
20 SmartButton, comes in several colors and can be purchased online;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, At the 2005 convention of the World Shoe Association
23 in Las Vegas, Joel's father received interest in the device from
24 such companies as Nike, LA Footwear, Nickelodeon, and Disney; Joel

1 Williams, Jr., with the help of his parents, who oversee the
2 day-to-day running of the company while the young inventor and
3 entrepreneur attends school, grossed more than \$10,000 last year,
4 which will be invested in his college fund; and

5 WHEREAS, This intelligent, energetic, and ambitious young
6 man is an exemplar of Texas entrepreneurship at its most
7 innovative, and it is fitting that his drive and talent be
8 recognized; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate Joel Williams, Jr., on the
11 invention and marketing of the SmartButton and extend to him
12 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for Mr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.

Delisi

H.R. No. 1943

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1943 was adopted by the House on May 18, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House