

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 2986

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Toni B. Simmons has provided valuable public service  
2 to the people of the great State of Texas as legislative assistant  
3 in the office of State Representative Dan Gattis during the 80th  
4 Legislative Session; and

5           WHEREAS, A graduate of Texas A&M University, Ms. Simmons  
6 earned her bachelor's degree in bioenvironmental sciences and  
7 gained previous legislative experience through the Agricultural  
8 and Natural Resources Policy Internship Program, which is renowned  
9 for producing leaders among leaders; and

10           WHEREAS, Ms. Simmons has capably handled a number of highly  
11 significant duties since joining the office of Representative  
12 Gattis in January 2007; she has assisted with all aspects of the  
13 Member's responsibilities to the House Committee on Appropriations  
14 and the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, reviewed and  
15 provided detailed and accurate analyses of the budget requests  
16 submitted by the numerous state agencies, effectively interacted  
17 with committee staff and Legislative Budget Board staff, and met  
18 with constituents, agency directors, and advocacy groups on the  
19 various issues and complex policy issues involving the state  
20 budget; and

21           WHEREAS, When faced with a "sink or swim" scenario involving  
22 quickly gaining the knowledge to understanding the state budgeting  
23 process, this star intramural athlete successfully learned all  
24 terms and acronyms of the complex area of legislative

1 appropriations, and this laboriously gained knowledge made her a  
2 vital asset to Representative Gattis, who also serves as a house  
3 conferee on the budget; and

4 WHEREAS, Known for her friendly and positive attitude, Ms.  
5 Simmons has often been of helpful assistance to her coworkers; she  
6 will be missed when she leaves to attend the University of Arkansas  
7 at Fayetteville School of Law, where she will undoubtedly teach  
8 Razorbacks how to "Whoop" in the finest Aggie tradition; and

9 WHEREAS, Toni Simmons has proven herself unflappable when  
10 faced with any new situation or challenge, and she is indeed  
11 deserving of recognition for her exemplary legislative tenure; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commend Toni B. Simmons for her service as a  
15 legislative assistant in the office of State Representative Dan  
16 Gattis and thank her for her work in behalf of the citizens of  
17 Texas; and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Ms. Simmons as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.