

By: Paxton

H.C.R. No. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was implemented
2 in 1998 as a means to organize postseason play in college football
3 and to decide the sport's national championship; it is intended to
4 showcase the nation's top teams in prestigious bowl games and to
5 match the two finest teams in a national championship contest, but
6 throughout the period it has been in existence, the BCS has fallen
7 short of those goals time and again; and

8 WHEREAS, At the heart of the system are the BCS standings that
9 designate the top teams and ultimately determine the two that will
10 battle for the national crown; these ratings are decided by a
11 complex system that is mystifying to even the most ardent fans,
12 combining six different computer rankings as well as polls of
13 college coaches, sports reporters, and other authorities on the
14 game; all too often, the outcome of this process has resulted in
15 questionable bowl-game selections; and

16 WHEREAS, In more than half of the 11 years that the BCS has
17 been used to determine the national championship, controversy has
18 surrounded the selection of the two title contenders, including
19 well-documented incidents during the 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, and
20 2007 seasons; and

21 WHEREAS, The year 2008 saw a continuation of the BCS
22 shortcomings, and these were especially harmful to teams from the
23 Lone Star State; The University of Texas Longhorns and Texas Tech
24 Red Raiders both finished the regular season with 11-1 records,

1 equaling other top-rated teams in the nation, yet both were denied a
2 shot at the national title because of the arcane BCS scoring system;
3 when the ratings were tallied at the end of November, the University
4 of Oklahoma, also 11-1, edged ahead of the two Texas teams by a
5 miniscule margin; according to the Big 12 tie-breaking rules, this
6 gave the Sooners the conference's South title, despite the fact
7 that UT had beaten Oklahoma in their head-to-head matchup in
8 October; ultimately, Oklahoma landed a spot in the national
9 championship game while the Longhorns and Red Raiders had to settle
10 for lesser postseason matchups; and

11 WHEREAS, Texas Tech suffered further injustice because it was
12 prevented from competing in one of the top-tier bowl games that are
13 part of the BCS system, an outcome that resulted from a rule
14 allowing only two schools from the same conference to compete in the
15 BCS games; with Texas and Oklahoma claiming those spots, Texas Tech
16 ended up in the non-BCS Cotton Bowl; and

17 WHEREAS, Another Texas college team that was disappointed by
18 the BCS system in the most recent college season was Texas Christian
19 University, which posted an impressive 10-2 record and was rated
20 11th in the nation, yet was relegated to the Poinsettia Bowl,
21 another game outside the premier BCS events; and

22 WHEREAS, Teams from other states were likewise snubbed by the
23 flawed design of the Bowl Championship Series; the most striking
24 examples are the University of Utah and Boise State University;
25 both went undefeated in the 2008 regular season but were not given a
26 spot in the national championship game because of the machinations
27 of the BCS system; and

1 WHEREAS, Numerous members of the sports media as well as
2 other prominent figures have long promoted a postseason playoff as
3 an alternative to the BCS system; though differing plans have been
4 put forth, all of them place a greater emphasis on face-to-face
5 matchups to crown a national champion, rather than relying on the
6 vagaries of polls and computer ratings; such a design would bring
7 college football into line with the other major sports on the
8 college and professional level, nearly all of which employ a
9 playoff system; further, the playoff format would introduce a
10 greater degree of fairness than is found under the current system
11 and result in compelling games that would thrill football fans
12 throughout the nation; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby respectfully urge the presidents of the public universities
15 in Texas and the Big 12 Conference commissioner to work to promote
16 the institution of a playoff system to decide the national
17 championship in college football in place of the current Bowl
18 Championship Series; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
20 copies of this resolution to the presidents of the public
21 universities in Texas and to the Big 12 commissioner.