

By: Madden

H.R. No. 175

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Catherine Rohr and the Prison Entrepreneurship
2 Program have been named to the Philanthropy World Hall of Fame, and
3 this honor provides fitting recognition of the program's admirable
4 success in helping others; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of the Haas School of Business at the
6 University of California at Berkeley, Ms. Rohr established a
7 successful career before focusing on philanthropy; she was employed
8 at Summit Partners in Palo Alto, California, and as director of
9 investment development at American Securities Capital Partners in
10 New York; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2004, after visiting a Texas prison and meeting a
12 former inmate who had started a thriving handyman business, Ms.
13 Rohr had the idea to offer business training to inmates; she
14 relocated to Texas to operate the privately funded Prison
15 Entrepreneurship Program to provide values-based entrepreneurial
16 instruction to Texas prison inmates; currently based at the
17 Cleveland Correctional Center in Cleveland, Texas, the four-month
18 PEP program teaches participants how to create, develop, and
19 present a business plan; and

20 WHEREAS, PEP has recruited more than 800 senior executives
21 and financial industry professionals to serve as mentors and
22 business plan judges; the program's inmate participants also
23 benefit from weekly advice from over 400 students from top MBA
24 programs across the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, PEP's innovative and constructive techniques have
2 led to remarkable results; more than 400 inmates have completed the
3 program so far; the vast majority are gainfully employed, and
4 dozens have started their own businesses; the recidivism rate of
5 the program's graduates is less than 5 percent, compared to more
6 than 50 percent for prisoners nationwide; and

7 WHEREAS, Ms. Rohr's remarkable program has previously won the
8 Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award from Governor Rick Perry
9 and the Social Entrepreneurship Award from the Manhattan Institute
10 for Policy Research; and

11 WHEREAS, Catherine Rohr's unique combination of compassion,
12 creativity, and business acumen is helping convicted criminals to
13 chart a more productive course for their lives, and her efforts
14 provide a positive example of the way in which citizens can make a
15 difference in the world around them; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Catherine Rohr and the Prison
18 Entrepreneurship Program for being enrolled in the Philanthropy
19 World Hall of Fame and that Ms. Rohr and the program's staff and
20 participants be extended sincere best wishes for continued success;
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Ms. Rohr as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.