

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Many Texas families are confronting financial  
2 hardship as recession grips our nation, making it vitally important  
3 that all those eligible take advantage of the federal Earned Income  
4 Tax Credit; and

5           WHEREAS, Enacted in 1975, the EITC is a federal tax program  
6 that provides a credit on income earned to working families of low  
7 to moderate means; each year, the EITC helps more than 450,000  
8 Texans while injecting billions of dollars into the economy; and

9           WHEREAS, The EITC can be worth up to \$4,824 for families whose  
10 members worked in 2008 and earned less than approximately \$38,000;  
11 workers not raising children can also qualify if earnings fell  
12 below about \$13,000; the average EITC refund in the Lone Star State  
13 is approximately \$2,000; and

14           WHEREAS, In order to claim the credit, an eligible worker  
15 must file a tax return, even if that individual did not earn enough  
16 money to be required to file; although tax forms may seem daunting  
17 and commercial preparers may be costly, low-income citizens can  
18 take advantage of free filing help from such sources as the  
19 IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and  
20 Community Tax Center sites throughout Texas, which can be located  
21 by calling the 2-1-1 system; and

22           WHEREAS, Nationwide, more than 23 million eligible families  
23 and individuals claimed EITCs worth over \$44 billion in 2007, but  
24 millions more failed to file; the Department of the Treasury is

1 partnering with other agencies to raise participation in the  
2 program and is reaching out to educate the public with such  
3 initiatives as its third annual EITC Awareness Day; and

4 WHEREAS, For a family struggling to pay medical bills, stave  
5 off foreclosure, or keep up with household expenses, Earned Income  
6 Tax Credits can be a crucial lifeline; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
8 Legislature hereby recognize January 30, 2009, as Earned Income Tax  
9 Credit Awareness Day in Texas and urge all citizens who may be  
10 qualified to explore their eligibility for this program and claim  
11 any credits they have earned.

Villarreal

H.R. No. 193

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 193 was adopted by the House on  
January 28, 2009, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House