

By: Villarreal

H.R. No. 193

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.