

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 227

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For the past 35 years Camp Okawehna has provided a
2 memorable summer camp experience to countless children who are
3 facing chronic kidney disease; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 7,000 children have been diagnosed with
5 chronic kidney disease in the United States since 1994, and
6 approximately half of these children require dialysis or kidney
7 transplants as the illness progresses; Dialysis Clinic, Inc., a
8 nonprofit organization that operates facilities throughout the
9 country, established Camp Okawehna in 1974 as a summer camp for
10 children with this serious condition; and

11 WHEREAS, This full-service camp is held annually during the
12 first full week of June at the Cedar Crest Campground near
13 Nashville, Tennessee; Camp Okawehna features onsite medical
14 facilities and is open to children ages 6 to 18 who have kidney
15 disease, as well as those who have had transplants or are undergoing
16 dialysis therapy; although at least 90 percent of these young
17 patients are able to participate fully in sports and other physical
18 activities, they often maintain rigid daily schedules, and Camp
19 Okawehna offers them a welcome respite in a fun-filled atmosphere;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Campers spend their time playing basketball or
22 soccer, swimming, canoeing, or engaging in ropes courses and
23 scavenger hunts; the children also enjoy arts and crafts projects,
24 dances, and bonfires, and they can relax in the company of others

1 who have had similar experiences with chronic kidney disease; what
2 began with 15 campers in its first year has grown to accommodate
3 more than 110 children from all over the country, along with 80
4 staff volunteers; and

5 WHEREAS, The cost of attending Camp Okawehna is largely
6 underwritten by Dialysis Clinic, Inc.; this notable organization
7 also administers the treatment of children from the Lone Star State
8 at its Austin facility, the Children's Dialysis Clinic of Central
9 Texas, and in 2009, DCI is hosting the following young Texans at
10 Camp Okawehna: Austin Booth, Avonna James, Aaron Stevenson, Sandra
11 Rodriguez, Oscar Rangel, Mitchell Vanderwoude, Max Schultz, Isaac
12 Botello, Romeena Momin, and Lonnie Wren; and

13 WHEREAS, Camp Okawehna has demonstrated an unwavering
14 commitment to children with chronic kidney disease, and its campers
15 have benefited in myriad ways from this noteworthy institution;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby commend Camp Okawehna for its invaluable service
19 to children coping with chronic kidney disease and extend to all
20 those associated with the camp sincere best wishes for continued
21 success with this worthy endeavor; and, be it further

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