## R E S OLUTION

WHEREAS, Among the great resources of the state of Texas is the artistic talent and creativity of its citizens, and hundreds of young artists are visiting Austin on March 9-10, 2009, in celebration of Arts Education Days at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, More than 1.3 million middle and high school students in Texas are enrolled in fine arts courses, and over 2.3 million elementary school students are receiving fine arts instruction, with more than 10,000 creative men and women teaching the classes; and

WHEREAS, Visual art, music, theater, and dance offer outstanding opportunities for self-expression, and early exposure to the arts through educational programs greatly increases the quality of a child's education; studies have found that students who participate in fine arts courses in school not only perform better in other academic courses, but also achieve higher scores on standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, Fine arts courses promote innovative thinking, a skill that is essential to succeed in college and the 21st century workforce, and they further provide unique lessons in the cultures of the world; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of students from around the state are visiting the capitol to share their talents through performances and displays in celebration of Arts Education Days at the capitol; and

WHEREAS, The contributions that artists have made to the Lone 2 Star State are myriad, and it is indeed fitting to take this 3 opportunity to pay tribute to Texas art students and their teachers and to wish them well in all of their endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 9-10, 2009, as Arts Education Days at the State Capitol and welcome the students and teachers who are participating in this important event.

