

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Healthy Start Alliance is part of a broad
2 federally funded effort working to promote healthy lifestyles for
3 women of childbearing age in an effort to reduce the rate of infant
4 mortality, low birth weight, and racial, ethnic, and
5 border-specific disparities in perinatal outcomes; and

6 WHEREAS, While most women in the United States who become
7 pregnant have a safe pregnancy and deliver a healthy infant, major
8 and persistent racial and ethnic disparities exist in the
9 proportion of pregnancy-related maternal death, preterm birth, and
10 infant mortality; the national Healthy Start program was initiated
11 in 1991 to address these issues, and since then the program has
12 grown to include 97 grantees across the country, including those in
13 Brownsville, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Laredo, and San Antonio;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Healthy Start provides intensive services tailored
16 to the needs of high-risk pregnant women, infants, and mothers,
17 beginning with direct outreach by community health workers to
18 ensure that the mothers and infants have ongoing sources of primary
19 and preventive health care and that their basic needs are met; the
20 program recently expanded its target population to include women
21 and infants from entry into prenatal care through two years
22 postpartum; and

23 WHEREAS, Each Healthy Start project depends on a consortium
24 of neighborhood residents, perinatal care clients, medical and

1 social service providers, and community leaders who work to deal
2 with system barriers in their area; in addition, Healthy Start is
3 linked with such state programs as Title V, MCH Block Grant,
4 Medicaid, and the State Child Health Insurance Program; and

5 WHEREAS, From 2002 to 2005, 13 Healthy Start projects
6 reported no infant deaths among program participants; three of
7 these projects, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Brownsville, were
8 affiliated with the Texas Healthy Start Alliance; and

9 WHEREAS, Although infant mortality, low birth weight, and
10 access to prenatal care remain major public health issues in this
11 country, Healthy Start is helping to reduce the gap in racial,
12 ethnic, and border-specific disparities, and the Texas Healthy
13 Start Alliance, in particular, is providing vital leadership in
14 behalf of high-risk pregnant women, infants, and mothers in the
15 Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor the Texas Healthy Start Alliance for its
18 commitment to addressing disparities in perinatal outcomes in
19 communities around the state; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the Texas Healthy Start Alliance as an expression of
22 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Flores

H.R. No. 777

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 777 was adopted by the House on March 12, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House