

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 1560

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The volunteers and staff of the San Antonio Teen  
2 Court provide an important civic service by taking part in a  
3 juvenile justice program that benefits the residents of Bexar  
4 County and also provides valuable experience for student  
5 participants who fill the courtroom assignments; and

6           WHEREAS, Based on the principle of peers judging peers, Teen  
7 Court hears cases involving defendants under the age of 18 who are  
8 enrolled in school and are charged with first-time Class C  
9 misdemeanor offenses; after arraignment by an adult judge, teens  
10 act as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, bailiffs, clerks,  
11 and jurors to hear the case; and

12           WHEREAS, Judgment is handed down to a defendant in the form of  
13 community service, and successful completion of that service  
14 results in the dismissal of the case; and

15           WHEREAS, Participants receive training, which includes  
16 workshops, mock trials, and mentoring from adult judges, attorneys,  
17 and community leaders, as well as continuing education classes; and

18           WHEREAS, Since the program's start in 2002, over 400 trials  
19 have been conducted and more than 200 teens have participated;  
20 under the outstanding leadership of coordinator Edinia E. Espinoza  
21 and presiding judge Alfredo M. Tavera, the program currently has a  
22 roster of 135 members; and

23           WHEREAS, By aiding the administration of juvenile justice and  
24 providing young Texans with first-hand experience in the legal

1 system, the San Antonio Teen Court helps prepare youths for the  
2 future, and in so doing, contributes immeasurably to the well-being  
3 of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
5 Legislature hereby recognize all involved with the San Antonio Teen  
6 Court and commend them for their dedicated service to the  
7 community; and, be it further

8         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for the Teen Court as an expression of high regard by the  
10 Texas House of Representatives.