

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 1765

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of
2 death for young people, claiming the lives of nearly 6,000
3 teenagers annually, including some 500 in Texas alone; and

4 WHEREAS, For every teenager killed in a car crash, at least 50
5 more are seriously injured, making teen driver accidents one of the
6 most urgent public safety and health crises facing our state and
7 nation; and

8 WHEREAS, It is widely recognized by experts that no single
9 solution can effectively reverse this trend; therefore, it is
10 essential for young people themselves to play an active and
11 productive role in improving roadway safety for all drivers and
12 passengers; and

13 WHEREAS, A growing number of Texas teenagers have dedicated
14 themselves to this important safety mission through their
15 involvement in the Teens in the Driver Seat program, which was
16 created by the Texas Transportation Institute and is sponsored by
17 the Texas Department of Transportation and State Farm Insurance;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, This creative effort, distinguished by its unique
20 peer-to-peer approach, is the first program of its kind in the
21 United States, and it has already reached more than 230 Texas
22 schools and nearly a quarter million young Texans through such
23 initiatives as the annual Driving the Message contest, which
24 encourages teens to speak up and save a life by addressing one of

1 the five main driving dangers for young people: driving at night,
2 speeding, engaging in such distractions as cell phone use and
3 texting, not wearing a seat belt, and drinking alcohol; the program
4 benefits from the leadership of its Teen Advisory Board and from the
5 support of its teacher-sponsors, known as Sponstars; and

6 WHEREAS, Teens in the Driver Seat is making a positive
7 difference in the effort to reduce the frequency of teen driving
8 fatalities in Texas, and it is indeed fitting to recognize this
9 innovative program; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor the Texas Transportation Institute's
12 Teens in the Driver Seat program and extend sincere best wishes for
13 continued success to all those associated with TDS, including the
14 charter members of the TDS Teen Advisory Board, the Driving the
15 Message contest winners, and the recipients of the TDS Sponstar
16 Awards; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the Teens in the Driver Seat program as an expression
19 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.