

By: Duncan

S.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is proud to welcome members of the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, also known as TORCH, and members of the Texas Rural Health Association on their visit to the State Capitol on March 4, 2009; and

WHEREAS, These two organizations work on behalf of the citizens of rural Texas and are dedicated to ensuring that rural Texans have equal access to hospital and health care services as well as timely emergency care; and

WHEREAS, These two organizations consist of the rural hospitals, clinics, health providers, and health professions schools that provide the professional care and the trained workforce for the health care needs of our state's 3.5 million rural citizens; and

WHEREAS, A large part of Texas is rural and medically underserved; there are 177 rural counties, 50 of which do not have a hospital and 99 of which have only one hospital; 112 Texas rural counties have been designated as health professional shortage areas; and

WHEREAS, The health care needs of rural Texans are of importance to the whole state, because rural Texas is the source for the food, fuel, and fiber of our great state; and

WHEREAS, The issues that rural hospitals and other rural

1 health care providers face are critical and complex, and the Texas
2 Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals and Texas Rural
3 Health Association are valuable advocates for these important
4 members of our state's health care system and for the residents of
5 rural Texas; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby welcome the members of the Texas Organization of Rural and
8 Community Hospitals and the Texas Rural Health Association to the
9 Capitol and commend all those associated with these valuable
10 organizations for their work on behalf of the Lone Star State's
11 rural hospitals and health care providers; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in their
13 honor.