

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 458

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the successful mariachi program that has been developed in La Joya schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the course of two and one-half decades, the mariachi program in La Joya schools has grown from an idea for dropout prevention at La Joya High School to a full-fledged music program with some 500 participants in three high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Offering an alternative to traditional school music programs such as band and orchestra, the mariachi program appeals to many students who would not otherwise have the chance to take part in a successful, positive, and enjoyable music performance program in which they also learn skills that will benefit them throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, The program was initially proposed by then-trustee Amancio J. Chapa, Jr., and nurtured by longtime La Joya High School mariachi director Emilio C. Cantu, assisted by Pedro Magallon, Manuel Mario Saenz, Marvin Eagle, and Oscar Cuellar; the program has flourished with the support of the school board and the community; students in the La Joya mariachi program have performed in Washington, D.C., and Europe, and their audiences have included President George H. W. Bush, Governor Ann Richards, President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Governor Mark White, Congressman Kika de la Garza, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; and

**WHEREAS**, Students in the mariachi programs at La Joya's three high schools, Juarez-Lincoln, Palmview, and La Joya, are presenting their 2009 spring concerts in the months of February and March; and

**WHEREAS**, The members and directors of the high school mariachi groups in La Joya have shown exceptional motivation, dedication, and talent, and it is their enthusiasm that underlies the success of this outstanding program; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend all those participating in the La Joya mariachi program and extend to them best wishes for success in all their future endeavors; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 18, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate