

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 737

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Teens in the Driver Seat program for its efforts to improve teen driving safety in this state; and

WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young people, as demonstrated by the deaths of nearly 6,000 teenagers nationwide annually, approximately 500 of which occur each year in Texas; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, This creative effort is distinguished by its unique peer-to-peer approach and is the first such program of its kind in the United States; it has already reached more than 230 Texas schools and nearly 250,000 young Texans; and

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WHEREAS, The Teens in the Driver Seat program is playing a meaningful role in bringing about a reduction in the frequency of teen driving fatalities in Texas; all those associated with the program are truly worthy of commendation, in particular its "Driving the Message" annual contest winners, the charter members of the Teens in the Driver Seat Teen Ambassadors Board, and the SponStar honorees gathered here today at the Texas State Capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby salute these innovative public servants for their commitment, dedication, and vital contribution to their schools, their communities, and the State of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of the Teens in the Driver Seat program as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 4, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate