

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 116

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Government at The University of
2 Texas at Austin marked a notable milestone in 2010 with the
3 celebration of its centennial; and

4 WHEREAS, The department traces its origins to 1910, when the
5 UT School of Political Science was reorganized into the Schools of
6 Government, Economics, and Institutional History; since that time,
7 the Department of Government has made significant contributions to
8 the field of political science, to the mission of the university,
9 and to the development of the Lone Star State; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the years, the department has been home to a
11 number of eminent academicians; among those who helped to build the
12 department's early reputation for excellence were V. O. Key, Jr.,
13 Roscoe Martin, and Emmette Redford; in addition to producing their
14 own scholarship, the department faculty created, in about 1920, the
15 Southwestern Political Science Association (SWPSA) and its
16 journal, the *Southwestern Political Science Quarterly*, the first
17 social science journal to be published in the United States by a
18 regional organization; today known as the *Social Science Quarterly*,
19 the publication enjoys international stature; at the same time that
20 faculty members established the SWPSA, they founded a political
21 science honorary society, Pi Sigma Alpha, which now has more than
22 700 chapters across the country; and

23 WHEREAS, Together with promoting the study of political
24 science, the department has sought to meet its responsibilities in

1 the practical realm, in particular by helping state government to
2 function more efficiently and by fostering better understanding of
3 significant public issues; in its first half-century, the
4 department helped to establish both the Legislative Reference
5 Library and the Texas Legislative Council; more recently, it has
6 created the Irma Rangel Public Policy Institute, a research unit
7 that focuses especially on issues that are relevant to the state's
8 Latino population; the department also supports a remarkable
9 undertaking called the Texas Politics Project; through a speaker
10 series and extensive online resources, the project is designed to
11 supplement college-level instruction about the workings of Texas
12 government, as well as to help all Texans become more informed and
13 effective participants in the political process; additionally, the
14 department has instituted an internship program that enables
15 students to gain meaningful experience in government and in the
16 crafting of public policy; and

17 WHEREAS, An integral component of one of the state's flagship
18 universities, the department has helped to train countless Texans
19 who have emerged as leaders in areas ranging from law and politics
20 to education, business, and civic affairs; more broadly still, the
21 department has educated generations of Texas citizens about the
22 fundamentals of government and good citizenship; and

23 WHEREAS, In a society founded on representative democracy and
24 the rule of law, the UT Department of Government plays a crucial
25 role in transmitting the values and knowledge that keep that system
26 robust and vital, and the conclusion of its first illustrious
27 century provides a fitting opportunity to recognize it; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of The University of
4 Texas at Austin Department of Government and express sincere
5 appreciation for its outstanding public service; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for The University of Texas at Austin Department of
8 Government as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
9 Representatives.