

By: Otto

H.R. No. 140

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The volunteers, staff, and board members who make up
2 the Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates organization are
3 gathering in Austin on February 1, 2011, for CASA Day at the
4 Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, Court appointed special advocates are individuals
6 who speak up for children removed from their homes due to abuse or
7 neglect; sworn in by judges, CASA volunteers make certain that
8 these young people have a voice in the family court, social service,
9 and foster care systems, and the advocates remain focused on each
10 child until he or she is placed in a safe, permanent home and the
11 case is closed; often, the volunteers are a rare source of stability
12 in the lives of the young people they assist; and

13 WHEREAS, The CASA movement began in Seattle in 1977, when a
14 judge realized that he needed to know more about the young victims
15 of abuse and neglect who appeared in his courtroom; the
16 contributions of the volunteers who responded to his request for
17 assistance were so valuable that the program quickly spread to
18 other states; the first CASA program in Texas began in 1979, and
19 there are currently 69 local programs in the state that together
20 provide life-changing advocacy to more than half of the children in
21 the foster care system; and

22 WHEREAS, A diverse group that comes from a broad range of
23 backgrounds, CASA volunteers in Texas research a child's situation,
24 offer information and recommendations about the individual's best

1 interests, and work with the state to find the young person a
2 "forever family"; in 2010, more than 6,600 volunteers gave help and
3 hope to more than 20,000 children; and

4 WHEREAS, Countless residents of Texas benefit from the
5 critical services provided by CASA volunteers, whose work ensures
6 that a most vulnerable group in our society is not forgotten; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 1, 2011, as CASA Day at the
10 Capitol and commend all those associated with Texas CASA for their
11 steadfast commitment and admirable achievements; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.