

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, While any pedestrian may be injured by a car, blind  
2 or visually impaired pedestrians are especially at risk, and  
3 members of the American Council of the Blind are visiting the State  
4 Capitol today to help raise awareness of this important issue; and

5           WHEREAS, Visually impaired pedestrians, who tend to make up a  
6 higher percentage of the pedestrian population because they cannot  
7 drive, encounter hazards that pedestrians with average vision can  
8 easily avoid, many of which involve crossing streets and roadways;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, It is not uncommon for pedestrians who are visually  
11 impaired to be struck by a car's side-view mirror or to have their  
12 white canes or guide dogs hit by a car, and men and women have  
13 suffered serious personal injury and even death as the result of  
14 being hit by a motor vehicle; and

15           WHEREAS, In a recent national survey, some 20 percent of  
16 motorists reported being unaware that it is the law to yield the  
17 right-of-way to pedestrians, and according to AAA, aggressive and  
18 careless driving, which already accounts for some 20,000 deaths in  
19 the United States each year, is on the rise; and

20           WHEREAS, During the 81st Texas Legislature, Regular Session,  
21 the American Council of the Blind and other groups successfully  
22 advocated for the passage of House Bill 1343, which amended state  
23 law to increase the penalties incurred by motorists who cause  
24 serious bodily injury or death to blind pedestrians; and

H.R. No. 1660

1           WHEREAS, It is vital that Texas motorists use special caution  
2 when approaching an intersection or crosswalk and be aware that  
3 although they can see pedestrians, many pedestrians cannot see  
4 them; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
6 Legislature hereby express the importance of pedestrian safety and  
7 driver awareness and welcome members of the American Council of the  
8 Blind to the State Capitol.

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H.R. No. 1660

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1660 was adopted by the House on May 6, 2011, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House