By: Straus   H.R. No. 1660

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

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.