

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1946

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The "First Things First" Juneteenth Kick Off
2 Celebration, an event designed to encourage members of the African
3 American and Hispanic communities to make their health a personal
4 priority, is being held in Waco on June 18, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, "First Things First" is being sponsored by the
6 Empowerment Driven by Knowledge Coalition, whose motto is
7 "Rebuilding Communities One Family at a Time," and by KWBTV radio
8 station; organizers hope to educate attendees specifically about
9 diabetes, stroke, and prostate cancer, three of the leading causes
10 of death among minority populations; and

11 WHEREAS, African American and Hispanic adults are twice as
12 likely as non-Hispanic white adults to have been diagnosed with
13 diabetes; the prevalence of the disease among Latino adults is
14 estimated at 30 percent, with perhaps as many as half of those
15 affected not knowing that they have the condition; a major health
16 threat, diabetes can lead to such serious complications as stroke,
17 heart disease, and kidney failure; and

18 WHEREAS, Stroke is the third-leading cause of death among
19 African Americans and the fourth-leading cause of death among
20 Hispanics; in addition, both African Americans and Latinos suffer
21 strokes at an earlier age, on average, than non-Hispanic whites;
22 among Latinos, that age is 67, as opposed to 80 among non-Hispanic
23 whites; African Americans are twice as likely to die from stroke as
24 white adults and are more likely to become disabled by stroke if

1 they survive; and

2 WHEREAS, Prostate cancer, the second most common cancer
3 diagnosed among men, affects African Americans at twice the rate
4 that it affects white males; while Mexican American men are less
5 likely to develop the disease than non-Hispanic whites, they are
6 more likely to die from it; and

7 WHEREAS, By informing African American and Latino citizens
8 about the dangers of these illnesses and the risk factors
9 associated with them, the sponsors of "First Things First" are
10 performing an invaluable public service, one whose benefits may
11 extend far into the future; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the "First Things First" Juneteenth
14 Kick Off Celebration and express appreciation to all those
15 responsible for bringing this outstanding event to fruition.