

By: Strama

H.R. No. 2610

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Rebecca Powers, founder of Impact Austin, retired as  
2 executive director of the noteworthy philanthropic organization in  
3 January 2011; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2003, Ms. Powers established Impact Austin for  
5 women seeking to transform lives in the community through targeted,  
6 lifelong giving; within six months, she had recruited 126 women to  
7 join the organization, and the membership has since grown to more  
8 than 500; over the past eight years, Impact Austin has awarded over  
9 \$3 million to worthy causes in its five focus areas: culture,  
10 environment, family, education, and health and wellness; Ms. Powers  
11 has also worked to engage the next generation of women in  
12 philanthropy through Impact Austin's youth initiative, Girls  
13 Giving Grants; formed in 2005 for students in grades 8-12, it has  
14 awarded more than \$25,000 to community groups; and

15           WHEREAS, A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Ms. Powers earned  
16 her bachelor's degree in business administration at the University  
17 of Richmond in Virginia; she was employed as a sales representative  
18 for IBM for 14 years before settling in Austin with her husband;  
19 while her two children were in school, she was active in the PTA and  
20 served as president for several years, and she cofounded a women's  
21 Bible study group; she has also served on the boards of Trinity  
22 Center and the Rotary Club of Austin and is a graduate of Leadership  
23 Austin; currently, she serves on the national board of the Jeremiah  
24 Program and the alumni board of the University of Richmond; the

1 recipient of a Five Who Care Community Service Award from KVUE-TV,  
2 she received a prestigious Women of Distinction award from the Girl  
3 Scouts of Central Texas in 2010 and was selected by Concordia  
4 University as its 2011 Excellence in Leadership Gala honoree; and

5 WHEREAS, Although she has handed over day-to-day  
6 responsibilities for Impact Austin, Rebecca Powers continues to  
7 share her wisdom and experience with the organization, and she is  
8 providing guidance to groups seeking to replicate the Impact Austin  
9 model in other communities around the country; her visionary  
10 leadership has made a lasting, positive difference in the lives of  
11 countless Austin residents, and as she embarks on this next  
12 exciting chapter in her life, it is indeed fitting to honor her for  
13 her remarkable contributions; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
15 Legislature hereby commend Rebecca Powers for her many exceptional  
16 accomplishments as founder and executive director of Impact Austin  
17 and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success in all  
18 her endeavors; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Ms. Powers as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
21 House of Representatives.