

By: Price

H.R. No. 2781

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dennis Hart was instrumental in the passage of House
2 Bill 2038, requiring Texas schools to establish a protocol for
3 dealing with student-athletes suspected to have sustained a
4 concussion; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislation, which was authored by State
6 Representative Four Price, has been named "Natasha's Law" in honor
7 of Natasha Helmick, whose soccer career ended after she suffered
8 five concussions in four years; involved in the sport since age
9 four, she earned a scholarship to play for Texas State University,
10 but a medical evaluation changed the course of her path; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Hart's efforts in behalf of this bill included
12 testifying before the House Committee on Public Health, discussing
13 its importance with numerous members of the legislature and
14 attending a press conference at the Capitol shortly after the bill
15 was introduced in the house; and

16 WHEREAS, A longtime athletic trainer, Mr. Hart began his
17 career in 1970 and worked at North Mesquite High School from 1973
18 until his retirement in 2006; he went on to become the director for
19 clinical and outreach services for the Sports Medicine Clinic of
20 North Texas in Dallas and also returned to athletic training
21 part-time at a middle school in Mesquite; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hart has served as president of the Southwest
23 Athletic Trainers' Association and as chair of the founding
24 committee of the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association; he has

1 received many recognitions at the district, state, and national
2 levels, including the Most Distinguished and Frank Medina awards
3 from SWATA in 1999 and 2001, respectively; and

4 WHEREAS, Deeply concerned about the health and well-being of
5 student-athletes, Dennis Hart contributed to his fellow citizens
6 with his outstanding advocacy for Natasha's Law, and Representative
7 Price expresses his gratitude for Mr. Hart's role in achieving this
8 notable legislative victory; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor Dennis Hart for his successful efforts to
11 heighten awareness of the dangers associated with concussion
12 sustained by student-athletes and extend to him sincere best wishes
13 for the future; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Mr. Hart as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.