

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Michael Stephens was instrumental in the passage of
2 House Bill 2038, requiring Texas schools to establish a protocol
3 for 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. Stephens's efforts in behalf of this bill
12 included testifying before the House Committee on Public Health,
13 discussing its importance with numerous members of the legislature,
14 and attending a press conference at the Capitol shortly after the
15 bill was introduced in the house; and

16 WHEREAS, Executive director of the Texas State Athletic
17 Trainers' Association, "Spanky" Stephens began his work as a
18 trainer while a student at The University of Texas at Austin in 1967
19 and went on to become head trainer there in 1978; he supervised
20 hundreds of athletes and worked with nine Longhorn national
21 championship teams, and he was also responsible for a strong
22 student program that sent qualified trainers to high schools and
23 colleges; he accepted his current post after retiring from UT in
24 2000; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens has further distinguished himself as a
2 legislative representative for the Southwest Athletic Trainers'
3 Association, as a longtime member of the Texas Advisory Board of
4 Athletic Trainers, and as the recipient of many awards and honors,
5 including induction into the All-American Football Foundation Hall
6 of Honor and the SWATA Hall of Fame; and

7 WHEREAS, Deeply concerned about the health and well-being of
8 student-athletes, Spanky Stephens benefited his fellow citizens
9 with his outstanding advocacy for Natasha's Law, and Representative
10 Price expresses his gratitude for Mr. Stephens's role in achieving
11 this notable legislative victory; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor Michael "Spanky" Stephens for his efforts
14 to heighten awareness of the dangers associated with concussion
15 sustained by student-athletes and extend to him sincere best wishes
16 for the future; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. Stephens as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.

Price

H.R. No. 2782

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2782 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House