## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Reach Out and Read program for its outstanding efforts to ensure that young children are prepared to succeed in school; and

WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read was developed by pediatricians and early childhood educators to make literacy promotion a regular part of pediatric checkups; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that exposure to books and reading in the first years of life increases the probability of a child's healthy development and success in school; approximately a third of American children entering kindergarten lack the basic language skills they need in order to learn to read, with children living in poverty especially at risk; and

WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read addresses this problem by having doctors and nurses go beyond traditional medical care to provide parents with information on how to read to children at each developmental stage; they further provide each young patient with an age-appropriate book to take home, which serves to encourage parents to make reading aloud a routine activity; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary program has been implemented in nearly 250 clinics, hospitals, and military installations across Texas and reaches more than 245,000 young Texans each year; it is truly deserving of recognition for its record of success in

1 encouraging families to read together; now, therefore, be it

8 as an expression of esteem from the Texas senate and House of Representatives.

