

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 82

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Structural change in an increasingly global economy
2 has contributed to high unemployment and a decline in wages for
3 those without college degrees; and

4 WHEREAS, By 2011, a quarter of all young high school
5 graduates were unemployed and more than half were underemployed;
6 wages for those with only a high school diploma have fallen by 12
7 percent over the past decade to under \$20,000 a year, below the
8 poverty threshold for a family of four; and

9 WHEREAS, While the job market has shrunk dramatically for
10 those with no education beyond high school, and college is out of
11 reach or inappropriate for many individuals, the workforce has
12 great demand in "middle jobs" that require no bachelor's degree but
13 necessitate education and training beyond high school, commonly
14 referred to as career and technical education or CTE; and

15 WHEREAS, A recent Georgetown University study found there are
16 at least 29 million middle jobs in such areas as nursing, sales, and
17 the trades, representing one in every five jobs and nearly half of
18 all middle-class jobs; the average annual wage for these positions
19 is \$42,000, and more than 11 million of these jobs pay well above
20 \$50,000 a year, including over four million that pay \$75,000 or
21 more; and

22 WHEREAS, The share of high school students concentrating in
23 vocational studies has declined for decades, but the modern
24 equivalent of vocational programming, CTE, can provide career

1 exploration and curricula that align with postsecondary programs
2 and employer-based training; moreover, CTE encourages persistence
3 to high school graduation along with academic development and
4 stronger transitions to postsecondary education; at the
5 postsecondary level, CTE often results in an industry-based
6 certification, a postsecondary certificate, or an associate's
7 degree in a particular career or educational pathway; and

8 WHEREAS, Nearly two out of every three jobs will require some
9 postsecondary education and training by 2020, but the United States
10 currently lags behind other countries in linking postsecondary
11 education with the needs of the labor market; in order for Texas to
12 remedy this gap in the educational system, it is necessary to
13 explore such topics as curriculum requirements, opportunities for
14 new education-workforce partnerships, and the impact of emerging
15 industrial sectors; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
18 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study
19 education policy as it relates to developing a skilled workforce;
20 and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
22 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
23 committees as the 83rd Legislature may adopt.