

By: Zerwas

H.R. No. 606

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injuries are a dangerous reality for
2 many Texans, but there have been significant advances toward better
3 awareness, understanding, and support over the past several years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 144,000 Texans sustain traumatic
6 brain injuries annually, and about 5,700 of those are left
7 permanently disabled; an estimated 440,000 Texans are currently
8 living with a disability caused by traumatic brain injury, which
9 remains the leading cause of death and disability in persons under
10 45 and is especially common among children and teenagers; moreover,
11 the projected economic cost of these problems in Texas totals some
12 \$6.8 billion per year; and

13 WHEREAS, In order to mitigate the societal impact of this
14 type of trauma, the 78th Texas Legislature established the Texas
15 Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council and charged it with
16 identifying individuals with TBIs, informing state leadership of
17 their needs, recommending policies to address those needs,
18 encouraging research into causes and prevention, and promoting
19 awareness; in the past several years, the TBIAC has accomplished
20 these core responsibilities by implementing a myriad of successful
21 programs across the state; and

22 WHEREAS, The council, with members appointed by the executive
23 commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, has
24 partnered with various agencies to ensure that individuals with

1 TBIs have access to adequate and high quality care; created in 2007,
2 the Office of Acquired Brain Injury researched and provided several
3 options to fund waivers for affected patients; the OABI and TBIAC
4 have collaborated on the development of accredited online training
5 courses for public health professionals, caregivers, social
6 workers, survivors, law enforcement personnel, and family members
7 dealing with TBIs; the OABI and the council also teamed up with the
8 Texas Education Agency to create a resource on TBIs and successful
9 communication and teaching skills for educators; and

10 WHEREAS, A large number of United States service members
11 suffer from TBIs, especially those returning from the wars in Iraq
12 and Afghanistan, and the TBIAC has worked especially hard to help
13 these brave men and women manage their conditions; with the OABI and
14 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the council released an
15 instructional video in both English and Spanish that offers advice
16 for effective communication and reviews available resources for
17 veterans with TBIs; and

18 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injuries affect Texans from all
19 backgrounds and of all ages, and it is fitting to take this
20 opportunity to celebrate the achievements of those who have
21 sustained brain injuries and to pay tribute to the many caregivers
22 and professionals who support them; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize March 2013 as Brain Injury Awareness
25 Month and honor the work of the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury
26 Advisory Council; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the TBIAC as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.