

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Construction workers and members of the Build a
2 Better Texas Coalition are gathering in Austin on February 27,
3 2013, to promote workplace safety in the construction industry; and

4 WHEREAS, The construction industry plays a significant role
5 in the Texas economy, with 950,000 Texans laboring in construction
6 and generating \$1 out of every \$20 in the economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Workplace safety in Texas is a serious issue; more
8 construction workers die as a result of workplace accidents or
9 conditions in Texas than in any other state; from 2007 to 2011, 585
10 construction workers lost their lives on the job, nearly twice as
11 many as in the next most deadly state; in addition, one in every
12 five construction workers in the state suffers an injury on the job
13 that requires medical attention; and

14 WHEREAS, Low wages and legal violations like wage theft and
15 payroll fraud are common, with 41 percent of the workforce
16 misclassified as independent contractors and one out of five
17 workers falling victim to wage theft, further imperiling the
18 economic stability of working families; and

19 WHEREAS, Whenever employers in the industry fail to abide by
20 the law, they decrease the ability of responsible businesses to
21 compete, put the physical safety of their workers at risk, and force
22 taxpayers to pick up costs resulting from their illegal practices;
23 the Build a Better Texas Coalition is a group of businesses,
24 community organizations, faith-based groups, and individuals who

1 seek to foster workplace safety and to level the playing field for
2 responsible businesses; and

3 WHEREAS, Components of a proactive industry approach to
4 worker safety include providing a safe workplace, adequate safety
5 training and rest breaks, and workers' compensation insurance,
6 which ensures that both workers and employers are protected in the
7 event of a workplace accident; and

8 WHEREAS, A strong and sustainable construction industry is
9 essential to the economic prosperity of the Lone Star State, and
10 such an industry is fostered by safe worksite practices and fair
11 pay; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2013, as the Day of the
14 Fallen, in memory of the thousands of Texans who have died in
15 construction-related accidents and in honor of their families, and
16 call on leaders in the construction industry to uphold the highest
17 standards of workplace safety; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the Build a Better Texas Coalition as an expression of
20 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

M. Gonzalez of El Paso

H.R. No. 625

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 625 was adopted by the House on
February 27, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House