

By: Allen

H.R. No. 646

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Supporters of the Knowledge Is Power Program, a  
2 national network of public charter schools, are gathering in Austin  
3 on March 5, 2013, for KIPP Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, KIPP was founded in 1994 by Mike Feinberg and Dave  
5 Levin, two Teach For America alumni who decided to start a  
6 fifth-grade public school program in Houston; the following year,  
7 Mr. Feinberg launched a middle school in the same city and Mr. Levin  
8 began one in the Bronx; specifically seeking to prepare  
9 underprivileged and at-risk children for the challenges and  
10 opportunities they will face in high school, college, and beyond,  
11 these schools became success stories in their communities; and

12 WHEREAS, The two founders of KIPP partnered with Doris and  
13 Donald Fisher to create the KIPP Foundation, which would fund KIPP  
14 schools on a nationwide scale; in addition to middle schools, they  
15 established elementary and high schools, all of them locally  
16 managed and independently operated; they are tuition-free and open  
17 to all, funded through federal, state, and local sources, and held  
18 to state and federal academic standards; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, there are 125 KIPP schools in 20 states and  
20 the District of Columbia, and they have a combined enrollment of  
21 more than 41,000; more than 87 percent of the student population is  
22 from low-income families and more than 95 percent are racial  
23 minorities; after attending KIPP middle schools, more than 90  
24 percent of these students go on to graduate from high school and

1 more than 80 percent attend college; and

2 WHEREAS, To foster a strong culture of learning, KIPP schools  
3 build a partnership between parents, students, and teachers, and  
4 the schools promote character formation along with academics;  
5 longer school days and high expectations help students reach their  
6 goals; and

7 WHEREAS, Providing a strong primary and secondary school  
8 foundation is an endeavor in which all Texans have a stake, and KIPP  
9 is indeed worthy of commendation for redefining what is possible in  
10 educational achievement; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby recognize March 5, 2013, as KIPP Day at the State  
13 Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes  
14 for an informative and enjoyable trip to Austin.