

By: Farney

H.R. No. 689

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Among the notable resources of the State of Texas  
2 are the talent and creativity of its citizens, and hundreds of young  
3 artists are visiting Austin to share their talents through  
4 performances and displays on March 4-5, 2013, in celebration of an  
5 event organized by the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education,  
6 Arts Education Days at the State Capitol; and

7           WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million middle and high school  
8 students in Texas are enrolled in fine arts courses, and over 2.3  
9 million elementary school students are receiving fine arts  
10 instruction, with more than 10,000 creative men and women teaching  
11 the classes; and

12           WHEREAS, Visual art, music, theater, and dance offer  
13 important opportunities for self-expression, and early exposure to  
14 the arts through educational programs greatly increases the quality  
15 of a child's education; studies have found that students who  
16 participate in fine arts courses in school not only perform better  
17 in other academic courses, but also achieve higher scores on  
18 standardized tests; and

19           WHEREAS, In Texas, studies of public school enrollment have  
20 found that campuses with a higher percentage of students in fine  
21 arts courses achieved higher academic ratings; moreover, campuses  
22 that showed an improvement in their academic rating from 2006 to  
23 2010 also reported increases in fine arts course enrollments, and  
24 campuses with a higher percentage of students enrolled in fine arts

1 courses reported higher graduation rates; and

2 WHEREAS, Fine arts courses promote innovative thinking, a  
3 skill that is essential to succeed in college and the 21st century  
4 workforce, and they can further provide unique lessons in the  
5 cultures of the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The contributions of those who engage in the arts  
7 enrich the lives of us all, and it is indeed fitting to take this  
8 opportunity to honor Texas art students and their teachers and to  
9 wish them well in their creative endeavors; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize March 4-5, 2013, as Arts Education  
12 Days at the State Capitol and welcome the students and teachers who  
13 are participating in this special event; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education as an  
16 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.