

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1020

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, In the wake of the recent economic downturn, more  
2 and more Americans are facing homelessness or the prospect of  
3 losing their homes, including an increasing number who do not fit  
4 the commonly held stereotype of the homeless; and

5           WHEREAS, A homeless person is generally defined as an  
6 individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime  
7 residence, or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or  
8 private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation; and

9           WHEREAS, While it is impossible to measure the rate of  
10 homelessness with perfect accuracy, the Texas Homeless Network  
11 estimates that close to 80,000 Texans experience homelessness on  
12 any given day, with 265,000 experiencing homelessness over the span  
13 of a year; and

14           WHEREAS, A sobering consequence of the nationwide economic  
15 recession is the growing number of families and children  
16 experiencing homelessness; according to a recent point-in-time  
17 count, families now account for 40 percent of the state's homeless  
18 population, and 3 percent of the homeless are unaccompanied minors;  
19 children who lack safe and permanent housing often suffer from  
20 health and emotional problems as well as impeded academic progress,  
21 with fewer than one in four graduating from high school; and

22           WHEREAS, The State of Texas is home to a great number of  
23 charities, government agencies, businesses, and advocacy groups  
24 that are committed to serving homeless populations and developing

1 solutions to prevent and reduce homelessness in our communities;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, To that end, advocates from across the state are  
4 gathering in Austin on March 19, 2013, to observe Homelessness  
5 Awareness Day at the State Capitol; this occasion presents a  
6 worthwhile opportunity to promote greater understanding of issues  
7 facing homeless individuals and to foster solidarity in statewide  
8 endeavors to end homelessness, a problem whose implications for the  
9 future of our society cannot be overstated; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize March 19, 2013, as Homelessness  
12 Awareness Day and commend the state's homelessness advocates for  
13 their important work.