

By: Price

H.R. No. 1021

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A delegation from the Texas State Athletic Trainers'  
2 Association is gathering in Austin on March 21, 2013, for the  
3 association's Legislative Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, There are more than 2,900 athletic trainers in the  
5 State of Texas who are licensed by the state's Advisory Board of  
6 Athletic Trainers and meet specific standards of education, ethics,  
7 and professionalism; and

8 WHEREAS, Athletic trainers work with the consent of a  
9 physician or other health care provider to manage the prevention,  
10 evaluation, and treatment of sports-related injuries and illnesses  
11 as well as the physical rehabilitation of patients; they attend to  
12 all individuals in athletic environments, including athletes,  
13 coaches, officials, workers, and fans, and are widely respected for  
14 the quality of care that they offer; and

15 WHEREAS, The ability to intervene quickly in a medical crisis  
16 can be of critical importance, as early evaluation and treatment  
17 have been shown to reduce recovery time and decrease complications  
18 in the event of a severe injury, and in the past year alone, a number  
19 of Texas licensed athletic trainers distinguished themselves by  
20 reacting to emergency situations and initiating life-saving  
21 medical procedures; and

22 WHEREAS, During fall football practice at the University of  
23 Houston in 2012, two defensive backs collided while attempting to  
24 intercept a pass; one of the athletes did not get up after the

1 impact and was immediately attended to by head athletic trainer  
2 Michael O'Shea; recognizing the seriousness of the player's  
3 symptoms, Mr. O'Shea promptly stabilized him and called for an  
4 ambulance; the athlete was later diagnosed with a torn inferior  
5 vena cava, a condition that would have resulted in death had  
6 treatment been delayed; and

7 WHEREAS, At a 2012 varsity football game at James E. Rudder  
8 High School in Bryan, an athlete collapsed while coming off of the  
9 field; athletic trainers James Woodall and Michael Lozano, who  
10 rushed to the player's aid, found that the athlete was experiencing  
11 agonal breathing, a life-threatening condition; Mr. Lozano  
12 stabilized the athlete's head and neck while Mr. Woodall began  
13 chest compressions before emergency medical services arrived to  
14 administer shocks with an automatic external defibrillator (AED);  
15 the athlete was later diagnosed with Long QT Syndrome, a heart  
16 rhythm disorder that could have been fatal if not for the quick  
17 actions of Mr. Lozano and Mr. Woodall; and

18 WHEREAS, During a 2012 Vista Ridge High School football game  
19 in Leander, a fan collapsed in the stands; athletic trainer Michael  
20 Henry immediately called for the school's AED, which he used to  
21 administer two shocks that caused the man to regain his vital signs;  
22 the fan had a history of heart problems and, without the prompt  
23 response of Mr. Henry and other bystanders, he may not have  
24 survived; and

25 WHEREAS, After a girls' basketball playoff game at Glenda  
26 Dawson High School in Pearland on the night of February 19, 2013,  
27 athletic trainer Monica Jackson was informed that a man had fallen

1 in the bleachers; she found the man lying on a bench, and a doctor  
2 assessing him stated that he could detect no pulse; while holding  
3 the man's head as the doctor began performing CPR, she sent a  
4 bystander to retrieve the school's AED, and the shock successfully  
5 restored the man's pulse; thanks to Ms. Jackson's knowledge and  
6 composure, the man survived to be taken to the hospital by  
7 paramedics; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to their work on the sidelines, athletic  
9 trainers have played an instrumental role in shaping public policy  
10 related to the prevention of traumatic brain injuries among student  
11 athletes; in 2011, the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association  
12 strongly supported House Bill 2038, named "Natasha's Law" in honor  
13 of Natasha Helmick, whose soccer career was cut short after she  
14 suffered multiple concussions; this landmark piece of legislation,  
15 which took effect in June 2011, requires Texas schools to establish  
16 a protocol on how to deal with players suspected of sustaining a  
17 concussion; and

18 WHEREAS, All involved in sports and recreational activities  
19 benefit greatly from the presence of licensed athletic trainers,  
20 whose expertise can make the difference in life-threatening  
21 emergencies, and their contributions and ongoing efforts are indeed  
22 deserving of our support and gratitude; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize March 21, 2013, as Texas State  
25 Athletic Trainers' Association Legislative Day at the State Capitol  
26 and commend athletic trainers Michael O'Shea, James Woodall,  
27 Michael Lozano, Michael Henry, and Monica Jackson for their

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1 actions; and, be it further

2       RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
3 for the association and the trainers as an expression of high regard  
4 by the Texas House of Representatives.