

By: Branch

H.R. No. 1564

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Big Thought has been named a 2013 Texas Medal of Arts  
2 honoree for Art Education for 25 years of providing creative ideas  
3 to young people that are proven to foster and sustain social,  
4 academic, and cognitive growth; and

5           WHEREAS, The Texas Medal of Arts program includes among its  
6 honorees institutions that have made important contributions to  
7 enhancing artistic opportunities for citizens of the Lone Star  
8 State, and Big Thought is indeed one such organization; and

9           WHEREAS, Part of a nationwide network, Young Audiences of  
10 North Texas was founded in 1987 by Mitch Jericho and Edith O'Donnell  
11 to recruit artists to work in public school classrooms; inspired by  
12 that program's success, area civic leaders expanded their original  
13 arts-in-education mission, starting Creative Solutions with the  
14 Dallas County Juvenile Department to help at-risk teens with job  
15 skills and college readiness and establishing Library Live!, a  
16 family literacy program that is conducted monthly at every public  
17 library in Dallas; today, these programs, as well as Thriving Minds  
18 and SLANT, operate under the auspices of Big Thought; and

19           WHEREAS, In each of these endeavors, Big Thought strives to  
20 better equip all children for the future by providing equal access  
21 to enrichment programs and championing the idea that creative  
22 learning boosts school attendance, leads to higher test scores, and  
23 improves graduation rates; through public and private partnerships  
24 with numerous other entities, the group coordinates collective

1 resources and administers a network of support for the benefit of  
2 young people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

3 WHEREAS, Through the years, Big Thought has offered  
4 educational activities to students and teachers alike, and it has  
5 sponsored numerous performances and workshops; in collaboration  
6 with its partners, its initiatives address academic achievement,  
7 family services, life skills, and workforce development, and its  
8 programs reach more than 100,000 children each year in the  
9 classroom and in neighborhood and after-school settings; and

10 WHEREAS, For the past quarter-century, Big Thought has played  
11 a pivotal role in arts education in North Texas, and in so doing it  
12 has enriched the lives of countless young Texans; now, therefore,  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Big Thought on receiving a 2013  
16 Texas Medal of Arts Award and commend the group's staff, sponsors,  
17 and volunteers for its vital educational endeavors; and, be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.