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H.R. No. 2005

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education offers numerous
2 opportunities and benefits for young people, including those with
3 intellectual disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Education is a key determinant for the future
5 success of students with intellectual disabilities, much as it is
6 for the general population; research studies have found that
7 persons with disabilities who attend college are significantly more
8 likely to obtain competitive employment with higher wages, live
9 with less support, and play an active role in their communities; and

10 WHEREAS, College can foster academic as well as personal
11 growth by allowing students to explore new interests, pursue goals,
12 and form friendships, and the experience of studying alongside
13 peers without disabilities can have a positive effect on
14 self-esteem; moreover, postsecondary education can provide a
15 healthy challenge to students with intellectual disabilities that
16 segregated school programs do not, and maintaining high
17 expectations for these students is vital to their success; and

18 WHEREAS, A range of federal laws and initiatives exists to
19 help persons with intellectual disabilities seamlessly transition
20 into places of higher learning and to encourage the establishment
21 of inclusive programs; from 2002 to 2010, the number of college
22 programs open to students with intellectual disabilities increased
23 from 4 to more than 250, according to the Administration on
24 Developmental Disabilities; even so, too few people with

1 intellectual disabilities advance to postsecondary education, in
2 part because programs that accommodate them do not exist within
3 their communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Regardless of ability, all students stand to gain
5 from the rigor, resources, and advantages afforded by a quality
6 postsecondary education, and its increased accessibility is indeed
7 an endeavor worthy of support; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize the importance of postsecondary
10 education for persons with intellectual disabilities in attaining a
11 secure and rewarding livelihood.