

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 394**

**WHEREAS**, Supporters of the Knowledge Is Power Program, a national network of public charter schools, are gathering in Austin on March 5, 2013, for KIPP Day at the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, KIPP was founded in 1994 by Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin, two Teach For America alumni who decided to start a fifth-grade public school program in Houston; the following year, Mr. Feinberg launched a middle school in the same city and Mr. Levin began one in the Bronx; specifically seeking to prepare underprivileged and at-risk children for the challenges and opportunities they will face in high school, college, and beyond, these schools became success stories in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The two founders of KIPP partnered with Doris and Donald Fisher to create the KIPP Foundation, which would fund KIPP schools on a nationwide scale; in addition to middle schools, they established elementary and high schools, all of them locally managed and independently operated; they are tuition-free and open to all, funded through federal, state, and local sources, and held to state and federal academic standards; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, there are 125 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia, and they have a combined enrollment of more than 41,000; more than 87 percent of the student population is from low-income families and more than 95 percent are racial minorities; after attending KIPP middle schools, more than 90 percent of these students go on to graduate from high school and more than 80 percent attend college; and

**WHEREAS**, To foster a strong culture of learning, KIPP schools build a partnership between parents, students, and teachers, and the schools promote character formation along with academics; longer school days and high expectations help students reach their goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Providing a strong primary and secondary school foundation is an endeavor in which all Texans have a stake, and KIPP is indeed worthy of commendation for redefining what is possible in educational achievement; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby recognize March 5, 2013, as KIPP Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable trip to Austin.

Patrick, Van de Putte

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 5, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate