

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 456

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and recognizes the Texas launch of the Justice for Girls initiative sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has long promoted solutions to racism, violence, and human rights abuses; the Justice for Girls program is a natural outgrowth of that mission; it is designed to heighten awareness and educate the public about the growing problem of sex trafficking in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Justice for Girls presents seminars, workshops, discussions, and public forums to examine and foster solutions to this deplorable national trend, which claims tens of thousands of girls and young women each year; and

**WHEREAS**, The Interfaith Children's Movement reported in 2009 that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had determined that the sexual exploitation of children has become the third largest moneymaker for organized crime; and

**WHEREAS**, This grave problem is an extremely sensitive and painful topic, and public education and discourse about the issue are essential to finding a solution; the trafficking of children has reached epidemic proportions, and programs such as Justice for Girls are vital in stopping this unconscionable and violent theft of innocence and freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, The newly established Texas affiliate of this nationwide initiative is headquartered in Fort Worth and led by executive director Tonya Tatum; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend the newly formed Texas affiliate of Justice for Girls and extend to its organizers and supporters sincere best wishes as they address the serious issue of sexual exploitation and trafficking in our communities; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Davis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 13, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate