

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1030**

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

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

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

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

postsecondary education, in part because programs that accommodate them do not exist within their communities; and

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby recognize the importance of postsecondary education for persons with intellectual disabilities in attaining a secure and rewarding livelihood.

Zaffirini

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 23, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate