

By: Walle

H.R. No. 436

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Construction workers and members of the Build a  
2 Better Texas Coalition are gathering in Austin on February 25,  
3 2015, to promote workplace safety in the construction industry; and

4           WHEREAS, The construction industry plays a significant role  
5 in the Texas economy, with nearly one million Texans laboring in  
6 construction and generating \$1 out of every \$20 in the economy; and

7           WHEREAS, Workplace safety in Texas is a serious issue; more  
8 construction workers die as a result of workplace accidents or  
9 conditions in Texas than in any other state; from 2009 to 2013, 528  
10 construction workers lost their lives on the job, nearly twice as  
11 many as in the state with the next highest number of deaths; in  
12 addition, one in every five construction workers in the state  
13 suffers an injury on the job that requires medical attention; and

14           WHEREAS, Low wages and legal violations like wage theft and  
15 payroll fraud are common, with 41 percent of the workforce  
16 misclassified as independent contractors and one out of five  
17 workers falling victim to wage theft, further imperiling the  
18 economic stability of working families; and

19           WHEREAS, Whenever employers in the industry fail to abide by  
20 the law, they decrease the ability of responsible businesses to  
21 compete, put the physical safety of their workers at risk, and force  
22 taxpayers to pick up costs resulting from their illegal practices;  
23 the Build a Better Texas Coalition is a group of businesses,  
24 community organizations, faith-based groups, and individuals who

1 seek to foster workplace safety and to level the playing field for  
2 responsible businesses; and

3 WHEREAS, Components of a proactive industry approach to  
4 worker safety include providing a safe workplace, adequate safety  
5 training and rest breaks, and workers' compensation insurance,  
6 which ensures that both workers and employers are protected in the  
7 event of a workplace accident; and

8 WHEREAS, A strong and sustainable construction industry is  
9 essential to the economic prosperity of the Lone Star State, and  
10 such an industry is fostered by safe workplace practices and fair  
11 pay; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 25, 2015, as the Day of the  
14 Fallen in memory of the thousands of Texans who have died in  
15 construction-related accidents and call on leaders in the  
16 construction industry to uphold the highest standards of workplace  
17 safety; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for the Build a Better Texas Coalition to commemorate the  
20 Day of the Fallen.