

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 663

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members and staff of Back on My Feet Austin are
2 gathering at the State Capitol on February 25, 2015, and their visit
3 provides a fitting opportunity to recognize this outstanding
4 organization; and

5 WHEREAS, Affiliated with the national nonprofit group Back on
6 My Feet, the Austin chapter uses the activity of running to help
7 persons facing the challenge of homelessness to achieve
8 self-sufficiency and stability in their lives; the organization
9 evolved from a running club that Anne Mahlum started in
10 Philadelphia in 2007 for men living in a local shelter; Ms. Mahlum
11 believed that consistent participation in the group could help
12 members to turn their lives around by gaining confidence in
13 themselves as disciplined, hardworking, reliable individuals; her
14 faith proved well founded, as those who committed to the regular
15 morning runs began to develop a healthy self-image; moreover,
16 through the support and encouragement they provided each other, the
17 runners began to experience a welcome sense of community; and

18 WHEREAS, In a short time, volunteers were enlisted in the
19 cause, and connections were made with local employers to help those
20 who were ready to take steps toward independent living; the program
21 now enables participants to attend financial literacy and
22 skill-building courses offered by corporate and nonprofit
23 partners, as well as receive assistance with job placement and with
24 securing housing; to date, nearly half of the homeless participants

1 have attained employment, housing, or both through the program, and
2 close to 75 percent have collaborated with staff to devise a plan of
3 action for attaining those goals; and

4 WHEREAS, Back on My Feet now has 11 affiliates nationwide;
5 the chapter in Austin was launched in January 2013, and since that
6 time, it has seen notable progress, with 78 members having gained
7 employment, 33 having found homes, and another 19 having received
8 access to educational programs; and

9 WHEREAS, By taking part in Back on My Feet Austin,
10 participants are working to build for themselves a brighter future,
11 and it is a privilege to commend all those who have pledged to
12 undertake that journey, as well as the caring staff members who have
13 stood beside them; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
15 Legislature hereby welcome members of Back on My Feet Austin to the
16 State Capitol and extend to all program participants sincere best
17 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the group as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.