

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.R. No. 804

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Andrea Sloan, a tenacious advocate for many worthy
2 causes, lost her battle with ovarian cancer on January 1, 2014, at
3 the age of 45, yet her legacy continues to burn brightly through the
4 work of the KK125 Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on January 23, 1968, Ms. Sloan gave early
6 evidence of talent and a lively interest in the world around her,
7 excelling in scholastic and extracurricular pursuits alike; she
8 graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's
9 degree in government and subsequently earned a law degree from UT in
10 1997; after practicing for eight years with the firm of Haynes and
11 Boone, she was appointed in 2005 as executive director and general
12 counsel for the Texas Advocacy Project, which provides pro bono
13 legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault;
14 driven by an ardent desire to promote justice wherever she could,
15 she also championed such causes as the Texas Freedom Network, the
16 United Way, and the Hill Country Ride for AIDS, and she served as
17 chair of the City of Austin HIV Planning Council; and

18 WHEREAS, Andrea Sloan was diagnosed in 2006 with ovarian
19 cancer, the illness that would claim her life but that never
20 dampened her zest for living or her love of adventure; in her
21 endeavor to face each new day with grace and courage, she drew on
22 her deep faith, as well as on the unwavering support of her family,
23 her friends, and the host of admirers who rallied around her; this
24 vibrant woman blogged regularly to report her progress and to share

1 insights and musings, and she traveled even more often than she had
2 before, cycling across Alaska for an AIDS fund-raiser, hiking the
3 Narrows in Zion National Park, and whitewater rafting in the Grand
4 Canyon; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Sloan sought an experimental medication in a
6 final effort to control the disease, and when the manufacturer of
7 the drug denied her request, she waged a campaign to reform federal
8 "compassionate use" laws governing the distribution of potentially
9 life-saving new treatments to patients in need; her struggle
10 inspired Congressman Michael McCaul to introduce the Andrea Sloan
11 Compassionate Use Reform and Enhancement Act, which calls on
12 pharmaceutical companies to provide publicly available information
13 about their compassionate use policies and about the process for
14 gaining access to experimental treatments; and

15 WHEREAS, In January 2014, shortly after Andrea Sloan's
16 passing, Representatives Kyle Kacal and Ken King established the
17 KK125 Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation in honor of Ms. Sloan and
18 in tribute to their mothers, Linda Marie Kacal and Paulette Brooks
19 King, whose lives were also cut short by this disease; the
20 foundation continues Ms. Sloan's efforts to advance early
21 detection and treatment, allocates funds for research, and pushes
22 for compassionate use reforms that can offer a better chance of
23 survival for other women touched by the disease; and

24 WHEREAS, While the loss of Andrea Sloan remains keenly felt,
25 her spirit lives on in the passion and commitment of those who carry
26 on the work of the KK125 Foundation, and their collective efforts
27 are helping to transform the tragedy of her story into a powerful

1 call for change; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Andrea Sloan and
4 honor the KK125 Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation for its
5 significant contributions to the fight to end ovarian cancer; and,
6 be it further

7 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
8 for Ms. Sloan's family and for the foundation as an expression of
9 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.