

By: Krause

H.R. No. 1147

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt at
2 the loss of Kelly Walters of Arlington, a remarkable young woman
3 whose life was tragically cut short on January 16, 2015, at the age
4 of 20; and

5 WHEREAS, Adopted from the Gladney Center when she was only
6 two weeks old, Kelly Walters was a lively, inquisitive, and
7 physically daring child from a very early age, whether it was
8 swinging from the monkey bars at day care, playing on the roof with
9 a friend, or riding a goat at a birthday party without the goat's
10 permission; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Walters first showed signs of a budding interest
12 in politics in the first grade; when she complained about some rules
13 at school, her mother explained to her that the rules were set by
14 the school board and the State Board of Education, and Ms. Walters
15 decided that she needed to become president of the United States,
16 even writing to President Bill Clinton and offering to take over the
17 job during the contested election of 2000; on another occasion,
18 after she was written up by her teacher for poking another student
19 with a pencil, the indomitable Ms. Walters wrote under the
20 teacher's comments, "needs more pencils"; and

21 WHEREAS, At the age of seven, Ms. Walters watched the
22 coverage of the attack on New York on September 11, 2001, with her
23 mother, and after reading a book about a young girl in Afghanistan
24 who poses as a boy to feed her family, she was inspired to help women

1 and girls in the Arab world, a passion that continued into her
2 adulthood; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Walters began asking questions at the town hall
4 meetings of U.S. Representative Joe Barton when she was in her
5 teens, and when she was 17, he sponsored her as a page in the U.S.
6 Congress; close to home, she volunteered with the Tarrant County
7 Republican Party, was a leading member of the Arlington Republican
8 Club, and served as an election judge on several occasions; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduating from Lamar High School,
10 Ms. Walters enrolled in The University of Texas at Arlington, where
11 she was double-majoring in psychology and political science; she
12 was also studying Arabic, intending to follow through on her
13 youthful commitment to work for women's rights in the Arab world; at
14 the time of her death, she was planning to leave for an intensive
15 Arabic immersion program in Morocco; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Walters also showed her idealism and her concern
17 for others in her personal life on a daily basis, helping out
18 friends in need, taking an interest in individuals of all
19 backgrounds and beliefs, and earning the respect of people of all
20 ages with her intelligence, compassion, and maturity; and

21 WHEREAS, During her years on this earth, Kelly Walters
22 demonstrated a passion for life and a steadfast commitment to the
23 causes in which she believed, and her legacy will continue to
24 inspire all those who were privileged to know her; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Kelly Walters and

1 extend sincere condolences to her parents, Ginna Walters and Gary
2 Brizendine, and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Kelly
7 Walters.