

By: Turner of Harris

H.R. No. 1784

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Acclaimed R&B artist John Legend has demonstrated a  
2 deep commitment to justice and equality, and he is making a positive  
3 difference in the world around him through his music, his advocacy,  
4 and his philanthropic initiatives; and

5 WHEREAS, Building on the tradition of engagement established  
6 during the Civil Rights era by performers such as Nina Simone,  
7 Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder, John Legend has combined stardom  
8 with a determination to address contemporary problems; he joined  
9 with hip-hop band The Roots to release *Wake Up!*, a Grammy-winning  
10 album of politically engaged soul songs from the 1960s and 1970s;  
11 after scoring a massive pop hit with the love ballad "All of Me," he  
12 delivered a powerful message about the continuing struggle for  
13 human rights in the anthem "Glory," a collaboration with rapper  
14 Common that closes the historical film *Selma*; and

15 WHEREAS, "Glory" won the 2015 Best Original Song Oscar, and  
16 in his acceptance speech, Mr. Legend spoke movingly about the  
17 legacy of slavery and the current high incarceration rates of  
18 African American men; moreover, in magazine editorials and other  
19 venues, he has raised awareness of structural racism and  
20 opportunity gaps; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2007, Mr. Legend founded the Show Me Campaign,  
22 which strives to interrupt the cycle of poverty and close the  
23 school-to-prison pipeline that has devastated low-income  
24 communities; the organization supports and sponsors educational

1 programs such as the LNRG Innovation Challenge, which is also  
2 sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation and the National Writing  
3 Project; dedicated to ending mass incarceration, the campaign  
4 promotes public policies that will allow the nation to redirect  
5 funds from the prison-industrial complex to education,  
6 rehabilitation, and effective reentry services; and

7 WHEREAS, John Legend has traveled to the Lone Star State to  
8 unite his efforts with those of the Texas Criminal Justice  
9 Coalition, a nonpartisan group working to eliminate the costly  
10 overreliance on incarceration; he shares with the organization a  
11 profound desire to advance solutions that will strengthen families  
12 and communities, and it is truly a pleasure to honor him for his  
13 contributions to social progress; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby welcome John Legend to the State Capitol and  
16 commend him for his endeavors in behalf of education and criminal  
17 justice reform; and, be it further

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