

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 3260

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The STEPS Program at Austin Community College has
2 benefited Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities
3 for more than a decade; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2004, STEPS was established at the ACC Highland
5 Business Center to provide a college experience to adults with
6 different learning abilities; it originally encompassed just three
7 classes provided by a single instructor, but under the guidance of
8 program director Mariah Lossing, it has expanded to offer
9 vocational training and more extensive postsecondary educational
10 enrichment, and it has become a model for several prospective
11 programs across the state; and

12 WHEREAS, The initiative now offers comprehensive services to
13 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at its
14 original location and also at the Pinnacle, Hays, and Round Rock
15 campuses; over the past five years, enrollment has increased by 370
16 percent; more than 80 percent of graduates are employed, and some 22
17 percent of current students hold part-time jobs; the program's
18 staff of eight includes two STEPS alumni; and

19 WHEREAS, Since its inception, STEPS has helped students
20 achieve their fullest potential as happy, productive citizens of
21 the Lone Star State, and in so doing, it is making a positive impact
22 in their lives and in the community as a whole; now, therefore, be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby honor the STEPS Program at Austin Community
2 College for its leadership in postsecondary education for Texans
3 with intellectual and developmental disabilities and extend to all
4 those associated with the program sincere best wishes for continued
5 success; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the program as an expression of high regard by the
8 Texas House of Representatives.