

By: Price

H.R. No. 3650

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Staff members of the Sunset Advisory Commission and
2 the Texas Legislative Council and legislative staff members in the
3 offices of the commission's chair and vice-chair and the chair of
4 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the chair of the
5 House Human Services Committee provided vital assistance to the
6 84th Texas Legislature in its consideration of House Bill 550 and
7 Senate Bill 219, known as the Health and Human Services
8 "clarification" bill; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the 1990's and moreover since the passage of
10 House Bill 2292 in 2003, codes relating to health and human services
11 have been riddled with outdated, inaccurate, and often conflicting
12 language; they contain references to agencies that no longer exist
13 and to practices that are no longer in place; in order to avoid
14 creating further confusion in the law with new bills, including
15 sunset bills for the Health and Human Services Commission and its
16 four departments, the Sunset Advisory Commission voted unanimously
17 to direct an update of the codes; and

18 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Sunset Advisory Commission
19 director Ken Levine, sunset staff worked for months in partnership
20 with the Texas Legislative Council and the agencies affected by the
21 codes to carry out this challenging project; the massive
22 undertaking, involving almost every Texas Legislative Council
23 drafting attorney, included a review of multiple codes, and the
24 clarification bill, as filed, contained revisions to 9 codes and

1 262 chapters of law; throughout the endeavor, the individuals
2 involved in this initiative strove to ensure that the laws would
3 reflect current practices and accurately portray the current
4 structure of the agencies; the partnership effort between sunset
5 staff, legislative council staff, and agency staff was over 20,000
6 combined hours of staff time; and

7 WHEREAS, after the drafting of the legislation and upon
8 filing of the House Bill 550 and Senate Bill 219, sunset staff,
9 legislative council staff, and agency staff worked with the
10 legislative staff members in the offices of the commission's chair
11 and vice-chair and the chair of the Senate Health and Human Services
12 Committee and the chair of the House Human Services Committee in
13 providing vital assistance to the 84th Texas Legislature in its
14 consideration of House Bill 550 and Senate Bill 219; and

15 WHEREAS, Team members who worked collaboratively after the
16 filing of the clarification bill include Steven Ogle, Kay Hricik,
17 and Jennifer Jones of the staff of the Sunset Advisory Commission,
18 Deborah Fulton, Mark Kuster, Danaé Bush, Kristi Ayala, Mark Wimmer,
19 Carolyn Hall, and Jeff Thorne of the Texas Legislative Council
20 Legal Division, and Kate Bulla and Carey Eskridge of the Texas
21 Legislative Council Research Division, as well as chief of staff
22 and general counsel Hal Talton in the office of Representative Four
23 Price, chief of staff Dave Nelson and policy analyst Anne
24 Allensworth in the office of Senator Jane Nelson, and chief of staff
25 Thomas Holloway and committee director Jordan Dixon in the office
26 of Senator Charles Schwertner, and committee director Jim Terrell
27 in the office of Representative Richard Peña Raymond; and

1 WHEREAS, Each member of the team demonstrated a commitment to
2 excellence in connection with House Bill 550 and Senate Bill 219,
3 and their extraordinary thoroughness, expertise, and willingness
4 to be available at all hours were invaluable during the
5 legislature's deliberations; in assisting on this monumental
6 project, these dedicated public servants have contributed
7 immeasurably to the efficiency of state government and the ability
8 of all concerned public to understand the law, and they indeed merit
9 special recognition; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
11 Legislature hereby commend all those who contributed to the work on
12 the clarification bill for their outstanding work and extend to
13 them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the staff members as an expression of high regard by
16 the Texas House of Representatives.