

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 497

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Breastfeeding Coalition are  
2 visiting the State Capitol on February 22, 2017; and

3           WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving breastfeeding rates, the  
4 coalition works to promote a public environment that accepts and  
5 supports mothers in this healthy practice; medical authorities such  
6 as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of  
7 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the United States Centers for  
8 Disease Control and Prevention all strongly recommend  
9 breastfeeding, and the U.S. surgeon general has issued a call to  
10 action in this regard; and

11           WHEREAS, According to the CDC, breastfeeding is one of the  
12 most effective measures a mother can take to protect the health of  
13 her infant; breastfeeding protects babies from a wide range of  
14 infections and illnesses, and breastfed babies are less likely to  
15 develop asthma; in addition, it reduces the risk of sudden infant  
16 death syndrome, and children who are breastfed for six months are  
17 less likely to become obese; mothers who breastfeed also have a  
18 decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers; and

19           WHEREAS, Cost-benefit analyses performed by private  
20 researchers and by the federal government have found that  
21 breastfeeding reduces costs to the nation's health care system for  
22 both acute and chronic illnesses; Texas, with its high rates of  
23 obesity and diabetes, stands to benefit significantly by  
24 encouraging more mothers to breastfeed; and

1           WHEREAS, Despite the vital advantages conferred by  
2 breastfeeding, mothers do not always receive the evidence-based,  
3 qualified clinical lactation support they need, and some current  
4 hospital practices make it more difficult to establish successful  
5 breastfeeding; moreover, although the state passed legislation in  
6 1995 affirming the right of a mother to breastfeed her baby in any  
7 location in which the mother is authorized to be, breastfeeding  
8 mothers continue to face discrimination and often experience a lack  
9 of support at work and in public places; and

10           WHEREAS, The Texas Breastfeeding Coalition is making a  
11 positive difference in the lives of women and children through its  
12 efforts to educate the public and improve support for  
13 breastfeeding, and a special day to spotlight its endeavors is most  
14 fitting; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2017, as Texas  
17 Breastfeeding Coalition Legislative Action Day at the State Capitol  
18 and extend to all those participating sincere best wishes for the  
19 future.