

By: Walle

H.R. No. 538

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Construction workers and members of the Build a
2 Better Texas Coalition are gathering in Austin on March 1, 2017, to
3 promote workplace safety in the construction industry; and

4 WHEREAS, The construction industry plays a significant role
5 in the Texas economy, with nearly one million Texans laboring in
6 construction and generating \$1 out of every \$20 in the economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Workplace safety in Texas is a serious issue; more
8 construction workers die as a result of workplace accidents or
9 conditions in Texas than in any other state; from 2012 to 2015, 452
10 construction workers lost their lives on the job, nearly twice as
11 many as in the state with the next highest number of deaths; in
12 addition, one in every five construction workers in the state
13 suffers an injury on the job that requires medical attention; and

14 WHEREAS, Low wages and legal violations like wage theft and
15 payroll fraud are common, with 41 percent of the workforce
16 misclassified as independent contractors and one out of five
17 workers falling victim to wage theft, further imperiling the
18 economic stability of working families; and

19 WHEREAS, Whenever employers in the industry fail to abide by
20 the law, they decrease the ability of responsible businesses to
21 compete, put the physical safety of their workers at risk, and force
22 taxpayers to pick up costs resulting from their illegal practices;
23 the Build a Better Texas Coalition is a group of businesses,
24 community organizations, faith-based groups, and individuals who

1 seek to foster workplace safety and to level the playing field for
2 responsible businesses; and

3 WHEREAS, Components of a proactive industry approach to
4 worker safety include providing a safe workplace, adequate safety
5 training and rest breaks, and workers' compensation insurance,
6 which ensures that both workers and employers are protected in the
7 event of a workplace accident; and

8 WHEREAS, A strong and sustainable construction industry is
9 essential to the economic prosperity of the Lone Star State, and
10 such an industry is fostered by safe workplace practices and fair
11 pay; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2017, as the Day of the Fallen
14 in memory of the thousands of Texans who have died in
15 construction-related accidents and call on leaders in the
16 construction industry to uphold the highest standards of workplace
17 safety; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the Build a Better Texas Coalition to commemorate the
20 Day of the Fallen.