

By: Workman

H.R. No. 587

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Ian McKenna, an eighth grader at Kealing Middle  
2 School, has made a positive difference in his community through his  
3 efforts to address hunger in the Austin area; and

4           WHEREAS, This outstanding young Texan was inspired to perform  
5 his first act of philanthropy back in 2012; his sister Addison told  
6 him about a first-grade classmate of hers who didn't receive  
7 presents from Santa because of her family's financial difficulties,  
8 and Ian decided to help; on Christmas morning, he and his family  
9 showed up at the girl's door with a trunk full of toys and food for  
10 her family; and

11           WHEREAS, Ian soon discovered that some of his fellow students  
12 were going hungry on a daily basis; in March 2013, he started a  
13 garden at Oak Hill Elementary, making it available to anyone who  
14 wanted to use it; he later built a second garden at Sunset Valley  
15 Elementary, and with the support of a grant from the nonprofit  
16 Katie's Krops, he created a third garden in his own backyard,  
17 cultivating a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, sweet  
18 potatoes, okra, cauliflower, and broccoli; in the first year, he  
19 harvested 750 pounds of produce and donated it directly to families  
20 in need and to such organizations as the Central Texas Food Bank;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, Desiring to do more, Ian decided to organize a  
23 dinner to raise awareness of the hunger many Americans face; held at  
24 El Buen Samaritano on January 21, 2017, the dinner featured

1 vegetables from Ian's garden as well as food donated by Keep Austin  
2 Fed and Trader Joe's; the popular event drew hundreds of attendees  
3 from all around Austin, including elected officials; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas is fortunate to have passionate and engaged  
5 residents like Ian McKenna, whose history of civic involvement,  
6 remarkable for someone of any age, serves as an inspiration to all  
7 who know him; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby commend Ian McKenna for his invaluable  
10 contributions to the community and extend to him sincere best  
11 wishes for continued success with his important work; and, be it  
12 further

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