

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 658

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of National Healthcare Decisions
2 Week from April 16 to 22, 2017, is designed to raise awareness of
3 the importance of advance care planning; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the nation has made great strides in
5 providing end-of-life care, it has fallen short in ensuring that
6 terminally ill patients receive care that is in keeping with their
7 values, goals, and preferences; a 2014 report by the Institute of
8 Medicine called for significant reforms in this regard, emphasizing
9 that all individuals should have the opportunity to actively
10 participate in decisions about the care they receive in the last
11 stages of life; and

12 WHEREAS, Individuals can communicate their end-of-life
13 desires to health care providers by means of advance directives,
14 including living wills and durable powers of attorney; such
15 documents are a gift to loved ones, saving them from the struggle of
16 trying to divine wishes that were never expressed; and

17 WHEREAS, Many Texans have not prepared advance directives,
18 and the problem is particularly acute among Mexican Americans and
19 other minority populations; in Hidalgo County, which is more than
20 90 percent Hispanic, advocates are working to encourage timely
21 discussions of end-of-life wishes and to demystify the planning
22 process through La Conversacion Valiosa, a program presented in
23 conjunction with the Texas Health Institute; and

24 WHEREAS, This special week reminds Texans that the process of

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1 communicating patient preferences should be initiated at the
2 earliest possible stage and that advance care directives should be
3 updated periodically to offer peace of mind to patients and loved
4 ones alike; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
6 Legislature hereby recognize April 16 to 22, 2017, as National
7 Healthcare Decisions Week and commend all those associated with La
8 Conversacion Valiosa for their efforts to facilitate advance care
9 planning.