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By:  Meza H.R. No. 417

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The observance of International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2019, provides an opportunity to celebrate cultural and linguistic diversity; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization established International Mother Language Day to support the preservation of differences in cultures and languages and to encourage greater awareness of multilingualism as an important resource; and

WHEREAS, Languages carry complex implications for identity, social integration, and development, as well as communication and learning; they are powerful instruments for maintaining tangible and intangible heritage, but of the estimated 6,000 languages spoken in the world, at least 43 percent are endangered by globalization; and

WHEREAS, Only a few hundred languages have been allotted a genuine place in educational systems and the public domain, and under 100 are used in the digital world; furthermore, 40 percent of all people lack access to an education in a language they speak or understand; and

WHEREAS, When languages disappear, the world loses traditions, memories, and unique modes of thinking and expression, but by valuing and preserving linguistic diversity, humankind not only saves irreplaceable cultural resources, but also inspires solidarity based on understanding, tolerance, and dialogue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2019, as International Mother Language Day.