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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The United States is home to nearly two million immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa, more than half of whom arrived in the U.S. from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa; and

WHEREAS, Typically, these African immigrants have higher levels of educational attainment than the nation's population as a whole, and they are more likely to hold degrees in the in-demand fields of science, technology, engineering, or math; moreover, they are well-represented in such vital sectors of the economy as the health care industry, which faces unprecedented levels of demand for qualified professionals; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 report by the Partnership for a New American Economy Research Fund notes the large number of African entrepreneurs residing in the U.S.; of some 90,000, many are involved in the broader transportation sector, and 5,700 are employed in real estate and accounting; and

WHEREAS, While the U.S.-born population is aging, nearly three-quarters of African immigrants are in the prime of their working years; they also naturalize at high rates, and accordingly, these individuals are well-positioned to fill gaps that are being created by the retirement of baby boomers; and

WHEREAS, African immigrants also support numerous U.S. businesses as consumers, especially in states that have experienced high rates of immigration; in Texas, African immigrants hold $4.7 billion in spending power, and the total for the country exceeds $40 billion; they are an important source of revenue for governments in many areas, and in just nine states, among them Texas, Georgia, and Virginia, their state and local tax payments exceeded half a billion dollars in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, Although the Sub-Saharan African immigrant population is relatively small compared to other foreign-born groups in the U.S., its members have an outsize impact in the economy and the tax base, and they provide key support in the health care sector and other industries in need of skilled professionals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize the contributions of Sub-Saharan African immigrants.