86R15036 CW-D

By:  Longoria H.R. No. 687

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Connor Williams of the Dallas Cowboys is raising awareness of the often severe consequences of bullying among school-age children, and his efforts are indeed deserving of recognition; and

WHEREAS, Joining his NFL peers as part of the league's My Cause, My Cleats campaign, Mr. Williams is helping to promote the stopbullying.gov website managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the website's mission is to educate the public on how to prevent bullying and cyberbullying, which can adversely affect children's mental and physical health; further, bullying is linked to lower academic achievement, and its victims are more likely to skip classes or drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was bullied as a child and presents his own narrative in reaching out to youth who are experiencing similar difficulties; struggling with a speech impediment from an early age, he became the target of bullies who ridiculed him for the way he spoke; self-conscious about how he was viewed in school and other public places, he was also humiliated by bullies who made fun of his size and weight; throughout these emotional ordeals, he drew strength from his parents, whose unconditional love and support helped him through his darkest times; in junior high, he started working out in the garage gym set up by his father; building muscle and confidence, he embarked on a path that would lead to football stardom; and

WHEREAS, A native of Coppell, Mr. Williams garnered all-state recognition as an offensive lineman on the Coppell High School football team; he continued his football career at The University of Texas at Austin, becoming only the fourth sophomore in program history to earn consensus All-American honors; moreover, he was named an All-Big 12 player for his achievements on the field and an Academic All-Big 12 selection for his performance in the classroom; chosen by Dallas in the second round of the 2018 NFL draft, he enjoyed a promising rookie season, quickly developing into a starting player on the offensive line; and

WHEREAS, Connor Williams has become an important voice in the anti-bullying movement, and he is making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of young people in the Lone Star State and around the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend Connor Williams for raising awareness of the negative consequences of bullying among children and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.