

By: Meza

H.R. No. 417

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

1 therefore, be it

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