

By: Meza

H.R. No. 506

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 commemorate the sacrifice of the people of
7 Bangladesh for their mother language, support the preservation of
8 differences in cultures and languages, and to encourage greater
9 awareness of multilingualism as an important resource; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, When languages disappear, the world loses
22 traditions, memories, and unique modes of thinking and expression,
23 but by valuing and preserving linguistic diversity, humankind not
24 only saves irreplaceable cultural resources, but also inspires

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1 solidarity based on understanding, tolerance, and dialogue; now,
2 therefore, be it

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