

By: Israel

H.R. No. 545

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For the past quarter century, the Austin LGBT
2 Chamber of Commerce has been a voice and an advocate for the
3 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender business owners of Austin;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Originally established in 1994 as the Stonewall
6 Chamber of Commerce, after the Stonewall demonstrations in New York
7 City in 1969, the chamber was renamed the Austin Gay and Lesbian
8 Chamber of Commerce in 1997; it became one of the founding members
9 of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) in 2004,
10 and in 2017, it changed its name to the Austin LGBT Chamber of
11 Commerce, in recognition of the contributions of the bisexual and
12 transgender communities to the local economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Austin chamber has grown in
14 membership and influence; milestones have included the publication
15 of its first magazine, *Forward Austin*, in 2007, its attainment of
16 300 members in 2009, and the first publication of its quarterly
17 magazine, the *Agenda*, in 2012; it received the Rising Star Chamber
18 of the Year Award from the NGLCC in 2013, and that same year, it was
19 named Best Shop-Local Portal in the *Austin Chronicle's* Best of
20 Austin poll; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition, the chamber has become a powerful force
22 for inclusion and diversity in the community; it sponsored its
23 first Pride Parade in Austin in 2001 and continued to host the
24 parade and festival until 2010, drawing more than 50,000

1 participants each year; on the first day of the 2013 SXSW
2 Interactive Festival, it organized the first #BigGay Kickoff Party,
3 attracting more than 1,500 attendees, and in 2015, it was
4 recognized with the Excellence in Community Impact Award from the
5 NGLCC; and

6 WHEREAS, Each June, the chamber hosts the Proud! Gala, an
7 annual business awards ceremony and scholarship fund-raiser for
8 LGBT students; over the past year, the chamber has launched an
9 Employee Resource Groups program and created an advocacy committee;
10 it is also one of the founding chambers of the Texas LGBT Chambers
11 of Commerce, a statewide advocacy group that is holding its first
12 legislative day at the State Capitol in 2019; and

13 WHEREAS, By empowering LGBT businesses and their allies, the
14 Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce is working to develop a supportive,
15 diverse, and prosperous environment throughout the Capital City;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce for
19 its first 25 years and extend to the chamber and its members sincere
20 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce as an expression of
23 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.