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By:  González of El Paso H.R. No. 263

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Brenda Risch has been a leader in the fight for social justice for members of the LGBTQIA+ communities in Texas, and their efforts have made a positive difference in numerous lives; and

WHEREAS, In order to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ communities in El Paso, Dr. Risch led a campaign to establish the Borderland Rainbow Center, which opened in 2016; they currently serve as executive director of the organization, and its many initiatives include support groups, therapy on a sliding scale, casework, a food pantry, and a variety of social and educational events; in addition, members of the organization promote equality in the wider community by training local allies and advocating in behalf of LGBTQIA+ residents; and

WHEREAS, Prior to working with BRC, Dr. Risch served as director of the Women's Studies Program at The University of Texas at El Paso and oversaw the development of internship and research programs for gender and sexuality studies; they also founded the Frontera Pride Film Festival in El Paso as well as Engendering Community, a museum exhibit highlighting LGBTQIA+ people in the Paso del Norte region; Dr. Risch holds a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Northwestern University, a master's degree and a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a master's degree in social work from The University of Texas at El Paso; moreover, they are a licensed clinical social worker and therapist; and

WHEREAS, Through their myriad endeavors, Dr. Brenda Risch has helped further inclusion and equality in the Lone Star State, and they may indeed reflect with pride on their many noteworthy accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Dr. Brenda Risch for working in behalf of the LGBTQIA+ communities of Texas; and, be it further

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