87S31535 CW-D

By:  González of El Paso H.R. No. 270

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Jessica Shortall of Dallas has rendered exceptional service to the LGBTQIA+ communities in Texas and beyond through her tireless advocacy work; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shortall is the founding managing director of Texas Competes, a partnership of business owners, industry associations, and chambers of commerce; the organization helps ensure the fair treatment of LGBTQIA+ workers and families, opposes discriminatory policies, and strives to make the state more economically competitive by promoting inclusiveness; the organization is a model for America Competes, an entity also directed by Ms. Shortall, that provides entrepreneurs with information, legislative analysis, and other resources so that they can advocate for equal opportunity for the members of the LGBTQIA+ communities; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of Venezuelan and English immigrants, Ms. Shortall formerly served with the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan, and she cofounded the Campus Kitchens Project, a food rescue and hunger relief nonprofit that is active in more than 50 cities in the U.S.; moreover, she was the first director of giving at TOMS Shoes and played a key role in building the company's One for One charitable program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shortall earned a master of business administration degree in 2006 from the University of Oxford, where she was a Skoll Scholar in social entrepreneurship; she also works as a strategy consultant, and in all her endeavors she enjoys the love and support of her husband, Clay, and her two children; and

WHEREAS, By defending the rights of those who are marginalized, Jessica Shortall is helping to build a more just, open, and diverse society for all Americans, and she may indeed take great pride in her many achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Jessica Shortall for her dedicated advocacy in behalf of the LGBTQIA+ community in Texas and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success with her important work; and, be it further

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