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By:  Zwiener H.R. No. 285

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shappley of Austin has distinguished herself through her exceptional work as an advocate for the transgender youth community in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The proud mother of a transgender daughter, Kai, Ms. Shappley began her activism around the time that Kai entered kindergarten; the family then resided in Pearland, and Ms. Shappley spoke at school board meetings about anti-trans policies that frequently reduced Kai to tears; in 2017, she and Kai testified in a Texas Senate committee hearing against the so-called bathroom bill that would have prevented transgender people from accessing restrooms and locker rooms that matched their gender identity; mother and daughter also shared their story in an Emmy-Award-winning documentary; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide a more nurturing and affirming school environment for Kai, Ms. Shappley moved the family to Austin in 2018, and she has continued to fight for the rights of transgender youth; in 2021, Kimberly and Kai received further attention when Kai delivered powerful testimony before the Senate Committee on State Affairs in opposition to three transgender-related bills; video of her appearance went viral on social media, raising awareness across the country of proposed legislation targeting the trans community and their families; and

WHEREAS, By courageously speaking out in behalf of transgender children and serving as a stalwart ally, Kimberly Shappley has set an inspiring example for other parents and helped the public gain a greater understanding of issues that affect transgender youth and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Kimberly Shappley for her advocacy in behalf of the transgender youth community in Texas and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success in her important work; and, be it further

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