

By: González of El Paso

H.R. No. 263

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

1 they are a licensed clinical social worker and therapist; and

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

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

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