87R23760 BK-D

By:  Crockett H.R. No. 1434

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing Dallas ISD students from all backgrounds with the opportunity to expand their intellectual horizons by participating in debate; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas Urban Debate Alliance was formed in 2007, at a time when few public high school students in Dallas had access to competitive policy debate programming; with support from the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, several individuals with debate experience were recruited to be part of the new organization; over the years, the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance has expanded to dozens of high schools and middle schools, where it serves more than 1,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Through the program, participants learn to conduct in-depth research and to prepare arguments on complex policy topics, and they are able to put their skills to the test at tournaments; in 2015, two Dallas Urban Debate Alliance teams received national recognition by advancing to the octofinal and semifinal rounds at the Urban Debate National Championship, an event that was attended by over 50 teams from around the country; and

WHEREAS, Students receive free materials and training from some of the top coaches in the area, who in turn are provided with supplies, continued curriculum support, and professional development; those who excel in the program can earn scholarships to attend camps at institutions such as The University of Texas at Austin, the University of North Texas, the University of California, Berkeley, Georgetown University, and Dartmouth College; in addition, students enjoy many other benefits from taking part in debate, including dramatically improved graduation rates; studies have shown that student debaters also have higher literacy scores and grade-point averages, and they perform better on the reading and English sections of college readiness exams; and

WHEREAS, By helping young people to hone important analytical, rhetorical, and research skills, the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance is empowering students to achieve their full academic potential and become engaged citizens and leaders in their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance and extend sincere best wishes to all those involved in this worthwhile program; and, be it further

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