

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, More than a decade ago, Harris County began creating
2 specialty courts that are designed to rehabilitate and reduce
3 recidivism in juvenile offenders; and

4 WHEREAS, The first of these courts, a mental health program
5 that was renamed Court 360, was established in January 2009; the
6 court was intended to address the unique needs of youth with mental
7 health conditions, but it has since adopted a comprehensive
8 approach where participants receive individualized guidance in
9 various areas of their lives, including family relationships,
10 academic performance, and community engagement; this court is
11 currently presided over by Judge Dena Fisher; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sobriety Over Addiction and Relapse Court, or
13 SOAR Court, was created in July 2010; presided over by Judge
14 Michelle Moore and Associate Judge Eric Andell, it utilizes a
15 collaborative multidisciplinary model to help juvenile offenders
16 overcome drug and alcohol dependence; as with Court 360,
17 participants in the SOAR Court program are provided with an
18 individualized, research-based treatment plan with the objective
19 of improving outcomes by promoting healthier family communication
20 and interaction; and

21 WHEREAS, In August 2011, the county established what would
22 later be known as the Creating Advocacy Recovery and Empowerment
23 (CARE) Court; overseen by Judge Leah Shapiro, CARE Court was
24 developed to assist young women and girls who had been exploited in

1 commercial sex trafficking, but it later began accepting boys,
2 young men, and transgender youth as well; the program employs a
3 clinically driven, multidisciplinary team, with a comprehensive
4 focus on resolving trauma and other underlying issues that
5 contribute to at-risk and delinquent behavior; and

6 WHEREAS, The newest specialty court, GRIP Court, was founded
7 in October 2011; officially known as the Gang Recidivism
8 Intervention Program, the court is presided over by Judge Natalia
9 Oakes and Associate Judge William Thursland; its purpose is to
10 reduce gang association by promoting pro-social behaviors,
11 redirecting youth to healthier alternatives, and improving family
12 relationships; participants are closely monitored and receive
13 individualized treatment plans, which include mentorship,
14 educational assistance, and other means of support; and

15 WHEREAS, Each of these programs has played a vital role in
16 Harris County's efforts to curb delinquency, tackle the root causes
17 of criminal behavior, and offer at-risk youth a pathway to a better,
18 brighter future, and it is a privilege to recognize those who have
19 devoted their time and expertise to these important goals; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
22 Legislature hereby honor the alternative juvenile justice courts of
23 Harris County for their 10 years of invaluable service to the
24 community and extend to all those involved with these programs
25 sincere best wishes for continued success.

A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 168

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 168 was adopted by the House on March 10, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House