

By: Talarico

H.R. No. 504

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The annual State Civics Fair, a nonpartisan,
2 community-based event celebrating youth civic engagement, took
3 place on March 5, 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, The State Civics Fair is hosted by the Annette
5 Strauss Institute for Civic Life, a division of the Moody College of
6 Communication at The University of Texas at Austin; since 2002, the
7 institute has coordinated the innovative civic education program
8 Speak Up Speak Out, which challenges third grade through high
9 school students to work together in groups to identify community
10 problems, develop solutions, and vie for the opportunity to present
11 their ideas to community leaders at the State Civics Fair; the
12 winning teams receive funds to use toward implementing their ideas;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 9,000 students, 175 educators, and 92
15 schools have participated in the Speak Up Speak Out program since
16 its inception; over the past year, around 700 young Texans worked to
17 identify and brainstorm ways of addressing various civic issues,
18 including waste management, social isolation, and public safety;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Out of all of this year's participants, 117 were
21 invited to showcase their solutions at the State Civics Fair; the 27
22 teams hailed from elementary, middle, and high schools in nine
23 cities, and each of their members earned distinction for themselves
24 through their hard work, initiative, and thoughtfulness; and

1 WHEREAS, The Speak Up Speak Out program is helping young
2 people to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need
3 to become the engaged citizens and leaders of tomorrow, and the
4 Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life is to be commended for its
5 ongoing commitment to this important endeavor; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2021 State Civics Fair, honor
9 this year's talented participants, and extend sincere thanks to the
10 staff of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life for the
11 guidance and support they have provided to our future leaders.