RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger (EPFH), El Paso's only food bank, has implemented a number of strategies in order to continue addressing food insecurity in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, EPFH is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief network; the food bank is the distribution center for more than 130 partner agencies and 235 mobile pantries across the borderland region, as well as a collaborative hub for SNAP and other support services; it currently provides meals to an estimated 200,000 people who are facing hunger, including families, children, single parents, seniors, and military veterans; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 crisis, EPFH has been required to adapt its methods of distributing food in order to keep its volunteers, staff, and clients safe; the organization created a task force that meets regularly to discuss health and safety measures, while it works to keep pace with the demand for nutritious food in its three-county service area; and

WHEREAS, To reduce person-to-person contact at its distribution sites, EPFH began creating approximately 8,000 family meal boxes each week, and it has also provided partner agencies with the means of creating meal boxes of their own; EPFH has collaborated with El Paso County and the City of El Paso to prepare and deliver food boxes to residents of local senior centers, and it has also supplied emergency food boxes to individuals in quarantine due to a
COVID-19 diagnosis; to further improve safety, EPFH has transitioned to a drive-through model at its locations, and in partnership with the City of El Paso, it has opened new sites to expand access to clients in the northeastern and western areas of the city; and

WHEREAS, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger has served as a critical lifeline to countless area Texans who have found themselves in need of assistance in these unprecedented times, and the tireless dedication demonstrated by its compassionate volunteers and staff is truly an inspiration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend El Pasoans Fighting Hunger for its continuing service to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to all those associated with the organization sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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