

By: Crockett

H.R. No. 1434

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Students receive free materials and training from
22 some of the top coaches in the area, who in turn are provided with
23 supplies, continued curriculum support, and professional
24 development; those who excel in the program can earn scholarships

1 to attend camps at institutions such as The University of Texas at
2 Austin, the University of North Texas, the University of
3 California, Berkeley, Georgetown University, and Dartmouth
4 College; in addition, students enjoy many other benefits from
5 taking part in debate, including dramatically improved graduation
6 rates; studies have shown that student debaters also have higher
7 literacy scores and grade-point averages, and they perform better
8 on the reading and English sections of college readiness exams; and

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

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

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