

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 358

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Rabbi Steven Folberg for 30 years of outstanding service to Congregation Beth Israel in Austin; and

WHEREAS, A native of Philadelphia, Steven Folberg received his rabbinic ordination in 1985 at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City; he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree in recognition of the 25th anniversary of his ordination; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Folberg became the senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in 1991, and for 30 years, he has remained committed to the temple's goal of serving as a warm, welcoming, intellectually stimulating, nonjudgmental, and spiritual community; he is truly devoted to enriching the lives of congregants, and he actively works to promote peace and justice in the community and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Folberg finds great joy in teaching students of all ages; he is a proud founding member of the Interfaith Environmental Network of Austin, which brings together individuals who view environmental stewardship as an essential part of their faith commitment; he has served in leadership roles for the National Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and he is a coauthor of *Bright Lights in Dark Times*, a textbook on Jewish history for middle school and high school students; and

WHEREAS, A widely admired civic leader, Rabbi Folberg has been recognized on numerous occasions for his effective service to his congregation and the greater community; former Austin

Mayor Bruce Todd declared June 10, 1995, as Rabbi Steven Folberg Day, and in 2004, he was named an Honorary Texan by former governor Rick Perry; he is a trusted teacher, mentor, and minister, and he is indeed deserving of special recognition for his many contributions to the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby commend Rabbi Steven Folberg for 30 years of exceptional spiritual leadership as senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel and extend to him best wishes in all his endeavors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Eckhardt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 5, 2021.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate