88R9397 TBO-F

By:  Schatzline H.C.R. No. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Fathers play an important role in nurturing and supporting children, enabling them to learn, develop, and reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Fatherlessness and the lack of important role models in the lives of children today are factors of the violence and unrest we are witnessing in our state and across our nation; and

WHEREAS, Despite some successful legislation and the creation of fatherhood initiatives, fatherless homes are still prevalent; and

WHEREAS, Research shows children do best when raised by two parents in a committed, long-term marriage; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, 18,400,000 children in the United States live without a father in the home, and 2.5 million children in Texas live in single-parent homes; and

WHEREAS, Data supports the hypothesis that having strong male role models in the home helps prevent suicide, behavioral disorders, juvenile detention, substance abuse, aggression, violence, and teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Fathers play an important role in teaching important life skills, providing guidance through challenges, and helping children persevere through adversity; and

WHEREAS, By promoting fatherhood with amended policies that remove disincentives to two-parent households, and by following evidence-based practices, the number of fatherless homes will decrease across all communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby

(1)  affirms the importance of fatherhood in caring for, nurturing, and supporting children throughout their lives;

(2)  supports the efforts of public officials, community leaders, faith leaders, and all citizens to promote and encourage engaged fatherhood;

(3)  recognizes the impact that fatherlessness has had on American children in creating obstacles for children to learn, grow, develop, and live fulfilling and rewarding lives;

(4)  recognizes misaligned incentives in the structure of state welfare programs and the barriers they create in allowing fathers to return home to their spouse and children;

(5)  supports programs and initiatives to provide incarcerated individuals with the tools and skills to seek meaningful employment opportunities upon serving their time in detention;

(6)  reaffirms support for efforts to encourage educational opportunities and economic development in minority communities, such as the First Step Act and Opportunity Zones;

(7)  commits to researching and understanding the root causes of fatherlessness and crafting public policy that supports and encourages fully engaged fatherhood;

(8)  supports addressing the difficulties of child custody as it relates to alimony and child support;

(9)  supports exploring programs that help promote male role models in children's lives, including through foster parenting and mentoring programs, and in so doing reduce overall government dependency and social breakdown; and

(10)  recognizes the threat of government growth to prosperity, responsibility, and liberty, and thus embraces the important role that the private sector, including faith-based organizations, can often play in lieu of direct government involvement.