By:  Bhojani H.R. No. 600

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Members of the Pakistani American community are gathering in Austin on March 20, 2023, for Pakistan Day of Action at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Located in the northwest region of the Indo-Pak subcontinent, Pakistan encompasses the Indus Valley and other areas near the Indus River, which were home to some of the world's earliest civilizations; emigration from the region dates as far back as 3,000 B.C.; Pakistan became an independent country in 1947, and Pakistani emigrants have made invaluable contributions to countries around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Pakistan and the United States have shared seven and a half decades of diplomatic relations, which have included such events as Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1961 visit to Pakistan, President Mohammad Ayub Khan's 1961 State visit to the U.S., during which he addressed a joint session of the Texas Legislature as well as a joint meeting of Congress, President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1967 visit to Pakistan, President Muhammed Zia ul-Haq's 1982 State visit to the U.S., during which he visited Houston, and President George W. Bush's 2006 visit to Pakistan; highlighting Pakistani, American and Texan hospitality, the visits were momentous occasions in the history of U.S. and Pakistan relations; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 600,000 Pakistani Americans reside in the U.S., and Texas is home to over 87,000 individuals of Pakistani heritage, with large populations of Pakistani Texans residing in the state's major metropolitan areas, including Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. is Pakistan's largest trading partner, and Texas makes up the fourth-largest portion of that bilateral trade; Texas and Pakistan benefit from a number of mutual exchanges, including the ATX+PAK Entrepreneurship program and the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council Future of Women in Energy Scholars program; moreover, partnerships between The University of Texas at Austin and several universities in Pakistan, such as the National College of Art in Lahore, the University of Karachi, the National Academy of Performing Arts in Karachi, and the Fatima Jinnah Women University in Islamabad, have resulted in faculty and student exchanges in the fields of film studies, music, performing arts, and social sciences; and

WHEREAS, Pakistan has one of the world's youngest populations, with about 63 percent of the nation's citizens being between the ages of 15 and 33; Texas businesses can utilize the country's highly skilled young professionals to advance the state's economy, particularly in the information technology and biotech industries; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Pakistani American community contribute to the vibrancy and prosperity of the Lone Star State in myriad ways, and the participants in this advocacy day are demonstrating their commitment to making an even more positive impact through active civic engagement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Pakistan Day of Action at the State Capitol on March 20, 2023, and extend a warm welcome to the Consul General of Pakistan, the Pakistani American Collaborative of Texas, the Pakistani Society of North Texas, the Pakistani Association of Greater Houston, and the other members of the visiting delegation.