

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 681

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in  
2 April 2023 provides a fitting opportunity to recognize SAFE for its  
3 outstanding work in Central Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, A nonprofit organization, SAFE is dedicated to  
5 providing safety, stability, and healing to anyone who has  
6 experienced violence and abuse, including survivors of sexual  
7 assault, trafficking, domestic violence, and child abuse and  
8 neglect; it offers a round-the-clock helpline, shelter and housing  
9 to escape immediate risk, and a charter school that is a secure  
10 place for daycare and education; in addition, it encompasses an  
11 on-site sexual assault clinic; among other initiatives, it sponsors  
12 a dedicated program for survivors of sex trafficking as well as  
13 prevention programs to empower people to choose healthy  
14 relationships; and

15 WHEREAS, SAFE traces its origins back some 45 years, when the  
16 Austin Rape Crisis Center and the Center for Battered Women were  
17 founded; as those agencies expanded their services, they joined  
18 forces in 1998 to establish SafePlace; its mission dovetailed with  
19 that of the Austin Children's Shelter, and in more recent years, the  
20 organizations merged into SAFE to better address the complex issues  
21 of violence and abuse; today, SAFE has an annual budget of more than  
22 \$20 million, over 350 employees, and thousands of volunteers; its  
23 prevention and crisis programs operate across multiple campuses and  
24 in schools, hospitals, courts, and county offices; and

1 WHEREAS, During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SAFE is  
2 hosting an exhibition titled "What Was I Wearing" to challenge the  
3 belief that the clothes a person wears determine their likelihood  
4 of experiencing a sexual assault; outfits displayed are accompanied  
5 by the stories of survivors, conveying the message that sexual  
6 assault is always the sole fault of the perpetrator, not the person  
7 who suffered harm; and

8 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month highlights the  
9 accomplishments of a movement that has effected positive change,  
10 including passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1993, while  
11 reminding the public that sexual assault, harassment, and abuse  
12 remain far too prevalent in our society; through the tireless  
13 endeavors of its staff and volunteers, SAFE exemplifies the  
14 progress the movement has achieved and the commitment to ending the  
15 cycle of violence; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor SAFE on the occasion of Sexual Assault  
18 Awareness Month 2023 and extend to all those associated with the  
19 organization sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for SAFE as an expression of high regard by the Texas House  
22 of Representatives.