

By: Eckhardt

S.R. No. 54

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Children's Emergency Relief International on the occasion of the ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the George M. Cowden Building as the organization's new Austin headquarters on August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Children's Emergency Relief International is a nonprofit organization that works to provide long-term care for orphans, vulnerable children, and their families in crisis; with programs in countries including Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Moldova, South Africa, and India, CERI provides humanitarian aid, medical attention, and spiritual guidance to support children and families living in impoverished conditions so that they may grow to live healthy, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, CERI's new Austin headquarters is dedicated to George M. Cowden, longtime general counsel for the Texas-based FirstDay Foundation, which supports CERI, and a former member of the Texas House of Representatives; the new headquarters will house CERI's central operations and will also offer a space for other Austin-area nonprofit organizations to utilize; and

WHEREAS, A principled leader and a devoted public servant, George M. Cowden served his fellow Texans not only as a legislator but also in the role of first assistant attorney general; he was appointed to chair the Texas Board of Insurance

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by Governor Connally and was appointed chair of the Public Utility Commission by Governor Briscoe; he later served as director of the Baptist Foundation of Texas and has served as a Baylor University trustee; and

WHEREAS, In dedicating its new Austin headquarters as the George M. Cowden Building, CERI recognizes a man whose commitment to the public good has made a positive and lasting difference, and he has done much to strengthen the organization's local outreach and its global impact and to progress the worthy cause of helping children in need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Children's Emergency Relief International on its exemplary efforts to further its vital humanitarian mission and extend to all best wishes for a memorable ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the George M. Cowden Building; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the organization in honor of this special occasion.