

By: Harris Davila

H.C.R. No. 56

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Necrotizing enterocolitis, or NEC, is the most  
2 common cause of death in hospitalized premature infants after two  
3 weeks of age; and

4 WHEREAS, This life-threatening disease occurs when bacteria  
5 attack the lining of the intestines, causing cellular destruction  
6 in the small and large intestines; it almost exclusively affects  
7 newborns, particularly those born prematurely, and mortality rates  
8 range from 10 to 50 percent in most cases; and

9 WHEREAS, Diagnosing NEC is challenging, as symptoms are vague  
10 and often attributable to other causes; severe cases may require  
11 surgical intervention, and many of those who survive the disease  
12 experience lifelong neurological and nutritional complications;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The feeding of breast milk is one of the most  
15 effective ways of preventing NEC in vulnerable infants, and when  
16 the mother's milk is unavailable, pasteurized donor human milk is  
17 the safest option for infants at risk of the disease; donated breast  
18 milk has been critical to reducing the mortality rate, and  
19 organizations such as the Mothers' Milk Bank of North Texas and the  
20 Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin are helping to ensure that babies have  
21 access to the health benefits that breast milk provides; and

22 WHEREAS, Necrotizing enterocolitis poses a serious risk to  
23 infants in their earliest weeks and months of life, and the  
24 observance of Necrotizing Enterocolitis and Breastfeeding

1 Awareness Month serves as a means of educating the public about this  
2 devastating illness and the importance of breastfeeding as a  
3 preventative measure; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby designate May as Necrotizing Enterocolitis and  
6 Breastfeeding Awareness Month; and, be it further

7       RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of  
8 Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in  
9 effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is  
10 finally passed by the legislature.