

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso women's
2 volleyball program achieved a new level of success during the 2024
3 season, as the Miners advanced all the way to the NCAA Division I
4 Women's Volleyball Championship tournament; and

5 WHEREAS, In the course of an unforgettable year, the UTEP
6 players repeatedly surpassed expectations; their inspired play
7 during the regular season included a 13-game winning streak and 20
8 consecutive home victories, and they were the first Division I team
9 to reach 20 wins; in recognition of their efforts, the Miners
10 received an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament, securing their
11 spot in the "Big Dance" for the first time in team history; and

12 WHEREAS, On December 6, UTEP took the court against the
13 University of Oklahoma in a first-round matchup; the Miners
14 showcased their resilience in a hard-fought contest, opening with a
15 25-19 decision in the first set and claiming the second frame 25-22
16 for a 2-0 lead; after dropping sets three and four, the UTEP players
17 gave their all in the fifth and decisive set; though they ultimately
18 fell short, the Miners ended with a stellar record of 27-6,
19 underscoring their season-long accomplishments; and

20 WHEREAS, For UTEP, Kaya Weaver was named the Conference USA
21 Defensive Player of the Year and an All-American Honorable Mention
22 pick, Kalia Kohler, Madison Hill, Sara Pustahija, and Ema Uskokovic
23 earned academic all-district selection, and Mattie Gant and Ms.
24 Kohler were conference co-setters of the week; the Miners also

H.R. No. 1286

1 received vital contributions during their campaign from the other
2 roster members: Jordan Imperial, Alyssa Sianez, Ava Martindale,
3 Deanna Almaguer, Torrance Lovesee, Alexis Massey, Lauren Wallace,
4 Iana Loera, Hannah Crowe, Lauren Perry, Landry Braziel, Luvina
5 Oguntimehin, and Danika Washington; these dedicated athletes were
6 guided by head coach Ben Wallis, assistant coaches Nick Petrovic,
7 Courtney Johnson, and Lexie Torres, graduate assistant coach Alex
8 Gantt, and manager Jorge Araiza; and

9 WHEREAS, Playing with exemplary skill, determination, and
10 teamwork, the UTEP women's volleyball squad has earned a place
11 among the best Division I teams in the country, and the Miners'
12 achievements are a source of great pride for the university's
13 students, alumni, and fans; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate The University of Texas at El Paso
16 women's volleyball team on advancing to the 2024 NCAA Division I
17 tournament and extend to the players, coaches, and staff sincere
18 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Perez of El Paso

H.R. No. 1286

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1286 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2025, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House