

By: Bucy

H.R. No. 1439

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, OutYouth in Austin is celebrating its 35th
2 anniversary in 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, A nonprofit dedicated to supporting young people in
4 the LGBTQIA+ community, OutYouth was founded in April 1990 by Lisa
5 Rogers and Jay Erwin-Grotsky, who sought to provide area youth with
6 a safe place to meet peers with similar experiences and to share
7 their personal stories; the organization initially operated out of
8 living rooms and libraries, and after quickly outgrowing those
9 spaces, it was housed in the University YWCA and later in the
10 Metropolitan Community Church at Austin's LGBT Community Center; by
11 the end of its first decade, the organization had moved to its
12 current location, the Little Blue Bungalow house in North Central
13 Austin; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the years, OutYouth has served more than 40,000
15 young people along with their families, friends, and trusted
16 adults; the organization has established a number of beneficial
17 programs, such as the nation's first toll-free suicide hotline for
18 LGBTQIA+ youth as well as the Jerry Strickland Jr. Memorial
19 Library, which has grown to become one of the largest privately
20 managed collections of its kind in Texas; in 2001, OutYouth began
21 offering mental health counseling services, which have expanded to
22 include family therapy, support groups, and the Be YOU curriculum;
23 the organization also launched the Texas Gender & Sexuality
24 Alliance Network in 2005 to support students in middle and high

1 schools across the state, and in 2024, it created a Media Arts
2 Program to help individuals express themselves through films,
3 podcasts, music, video games, websites, and other media; and

4 WHEREAS, For three and a half decades, OutYouth has
5 demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering inclusivity and
6 empowering LGBTQIA+ youth, and this special milestone is truly
7 worthy of recognition; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 35th anniversary of OutYouth and
10 extend to all those affiliated with the organization sincere best
11 wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for OutYouth as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.