By: Martinez Fischer H.R. No. 9

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Ruben Ray Martinez of San Antonio was tragically killed by an agent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on March 15, 2025, just days after his 23rd birthday; and

WHEREAS, Ruben Martinez was born on March 10, 2002, the son of Rachel Reyes, and his family also included his stepfather, Raymond Reyes, and two siblings, Ricky and Cassandra; he grew up in San Antonio's Southside neighborhood, and he worked at a local Amazon warehouse for five years; admired for his kind heart and adventurous spirit, he had a talent for making people laugh, and he treasured time spent with his many friends and loved ones; his interests included video games, mixed martial arts, and basketball, and he was an avid fan of the San Antonio Spurs; he also enjoyed fixing things, especially cars, and he had plans to enroll in trade school to become a mechanic; and

WHEREAS, On March 14, Mr. Martinez and his close friend since childhood, Joshua Orta, set out on an overnight trip to South Padre Island; they arrived late Friday afternoon, spent the evening with friends, and stopped at a Whataburger shortly before midnight; with Mr. Martinez behind the wheel, they began driving back to the apartment where they were staying and came across a car accident that blocked a busy intersection; law enforcement officers from multiple agencies were at the scene redirecting traffic, and Mr. Martinez slowed his vehicle to a crawl as he approached; available video, witness accounts, and police reports detail a

chaotic series of events in the moments that followed; a Texas game warden spotted an open bottle of alcohol in the car and directed Mr. Martinez to pull over; another officer, however, gave conflicting instructions and told him to "keep going"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Martinez turned onto a side street and brought his car to a full stop; several officers, including two ICE agents, surrounded the vehicle, and Mr. Orta reported that his friend was confused and panicked by the situation; Mr. Martinez slowly moved the car forward and to the left; the ICE incident report states that one agent was struck by the car and "wound up on the hood of the vehicle"; the other ICE agent proceeded to fire three shots at Mr. Martinez through the open driver's side window, and at least one bullet pierced his heart; according to Mr. Orta, who remained in the passenger seat throughout the encounter, Mr. Martinez's last words were "I'm sorry"; and

WHEREAS, The agent who fired the shots dragged Mr. Martinez out of the vehicle and onto the ground, where another officer placed him in handcuffs; in footage obtained from body cameras, he appears unconscious, and about a minute passes before first responders began attempting to render medical aid; Mr. Martinez was eventually transported to a hospital in Brownsville, where he was pronounced dead at 1:27 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, The role of ICE in the fatal shooting was not disclosed to the public until February 2026, nearly a year after the incident, when heavily redacted internal documents were obtained by American Oversight, a nonprofit government watchdog organization, as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit; the following

month, the Texas Department of Public Safety released more than 100 documents related to the incident, including camera footage, evidence photos, and witness statements and reports; the Department of Homeland Security described the shooting as an act of self-defense and said that Mr. Martinez "intentionally ran over a Homeland Security Investigation special agent," but many individuals have expressed concern that the DHS account is not supported by the available video footage and records; moreover, experts in police training and tactics have questioned why a federal officer positioned himself in front of the vehicle and put himself in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, The family of Mr. Martinez marked what would have been his 24th birthday in March 2026; although Mr. Martinez could no longer share a meal with them, they maintained the tradition of commemorating his birthday with a visit to a nice restaurant, saving an empty seat for him at the table; and

WHEREAS, Ruben Martinez enriched the lives of all who knew him with his warmth and kindness, and although his death has brought immeasurable sorrow, he will forever hold a treasured place in the hearts of those he left behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 90th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ruben Ray Martinez and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruben

Martinez.