INSERT COMPANY LOGO

WHEREAS, The American dream holds that there are no limits to what one can achieve through hard work and individual merit, and for a great majority of Texans, a quality education is integrally linked to future success; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Texas became the first state to adopt a law, HB 1403, allowing students who met certain requirements, regardless of immigration status, to qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities; passed with bipartisan support and later known as the Texas Dream Act, this landmark measure has since inspired the creation of similar laws, with at least sixteen other states now extending in-state tuition rates to certain immigrant students; and

WHEREAS, These young people, brought to the United States as children, include valedictorians, honor students, and student body leaders desiring to pursue a postsecondary education that would allow them meaningful integration into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, The reforms introduced by the Texas Dream Act represent sound fiscal policy, as these students represent a subset of workers who bring valuable skills to an increasingly global economy; and reports note that Texas workers who complete college can increase their earning potential by as much as 139 percent; and

WHEREAS, Such a policy allows taxpayers to see a return on years of investment in the public school education of these individuals, for by improving their earning potential, they will in turn provide for a more robust tax base; and

WHEREAS, In 2010 students enrolled in institutions of higher education paid $32.7 million in tuition and related expenses; the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board calculated that, were these students to be deprived of the incentives offered by the Texas Dream Act, the state’s institutions of higher learning could be expected to suffer a yearly net loss of tens of millions of dollars; the loss to the Texas economy would be greater still, as on average, workers with lower levels of education earn drastically reduced wages; and

WHEREAS, The strength of our economy rests on an educated workforce, and the Texas Dream Act provides a commonsense approach to ensure that intelligent and enterprising youth have access to the training and education that businesses need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ representing hereby expresses its support for the Texas Dream Act and urges the Texas Legislature to continue to uphold this vital law.