

By: Price

H.R. No. 493

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Merily H. Keller has distinguished herself as a  
2 steadfast advocate for mental health in the State of Texas  
3 throughout her many years of service as a co-coordinator and  
4 founding board member of the Texas Suicide Prevention Council; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Keller's tireless efforts have helped TSPC grow  
6 to include more than 70 local coalitions, which are united in their  
7 commitment to reducing incidents of suicide in Texas; a statewide  
8 master trainer for the organization, she developed an  
9 evidence-based suicide prevention program called "ASK," along with  
10 a number of apps, videos, and other instructional materials, and  
11 she authored and edited "Coming Together to Care: A Suicide  
12 Prevention and Postvention Toolkit for Texas Communities"; she also  
13 serves on the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's ad hoc  
14 Postvention Task Force, which assists schools and communities in  
15 the aftermath of youth suicide attempts and deaths; along the way,  
16 she has assisted in the passage of legislation allowing Texas  
17 communities to share timely data on deaths by suicide and requiring  
18 suicide prevention plans to be implemented at all Texas school  
19 districts; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Keller has long been a leader and a catalyst for  
21 change, having been part of the steering team that wrote the Texas  
22 State Plan for Suicide Prevention in 2002; in addition, she was  
23 among the founders of the Central Texas Chapter of the American  
24 Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Austin/Travis County

1 Suicide Prevention Coalition; before helping to establish TSPC, she  
2 worked as a coordinator for the Texas GLS Youth Suicide Prevention  
3 Project, with a focus on sharing evidence-based practices with  
4 communities across the state; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin,  
6 Ms. Keller embarked on her career in mental health education and  
7 suicide prevention after spending more than 25 years in the field of  
8 communications and education outreach; today, she regularly speaks  
9 and trains on a variety of topics and strategies for suicide  
10 prevention and postvention, as well as delivers presentations and  
11 attends panels for state and regional suicide prevention summits;  
12 she is the recipient of numerous accolades for her work, including a  
13 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from Women Communicators of Austin;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Through her leadership in TSPC and her involvement  
16 in a multitude of other organizations, Merily Keller has done  
17 tremendous work to make suicide prevention a public health priority  
18 in the State of Texas, and her contributions have earned her the  
19 profound respect and appreciation of many; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor Merily H. Keller for her service as  
22 cofounder and co-coordinator of the Texas Suicide Prevention  
23 Council and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and,  
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for Ms. Keller as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
27 House of Representatives.