

By: Neave Criado

H.R. No. 2503

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Mexican American Legislative Caucus is
2 celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded in the Texas House of Representatives in
4 1973 by lawmakers of Mexican American heritage, the caucus is the
5 nation's oldest and largest Latino legislative caucus; its members
6 are dedicated to serving as a voice for a united Latino constituency
7 across the state; and

8 WHEREAS, The caucus has played a strong role in writing
9 legislation and shepherding it through passage; in the 1980s, it
10 pushed through the Bilingual Education Act, unemployment
11 compensation legislation that included farmworkers, and a minimum
12 wage bill for farmworkers; it also tamped down the "English-only"
13 movement; members later successfully fought to increase funding for
14 higher education in South Texas and the border region, and they
15 helped shape the redistricting process; in the 1990s, in light of
16 the growth of the Hispanic population, MALC opened membership
17 eligibility to House members of any race or ethnicity who represent
18 majority-Latino constituencies; and

19 WHEREAS, Paul Moreno of El Paso became the first chair of MALC
20 in 1975; the current chair, Representative Victoria Neave Criado,
21 is the first Latina to lead the caucus in three decades; the House
22 now has 17 Latinas, the largest number yet; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to Chair Neave Criado, the current
24 caucus roster includes officers Vice Chair Christina Morales,

1 Treasurer Mary Ann Perez, Counsel Armando Walle, and Secretary
2 Armando Martinez, as well as Whip Ramon Romero Jr., Deputy Whips
3 Elizabeth Campos, Ana-Maria Ramos, Jessica González, Penny
4 Morales-Shaw, and members Sergio Muñoz Jr., Gina Hinojosa, Trey
5 Martinez Fischer, Bobby Guerra, Ryan Guillen, Richard Peña Raymond,
6 Erin Gámez, Lulu Flores, Joe Moody, Lina Ortega, Mary González,
7 Claudia Ordaz, Tracy O. King, John Lujan, Gene Wu, Diego Bernal,
8 Rafael Anchía, Philip Cortez, Eddie Morales, Oscar Longoria, Terry
9 Canales, J. M. Lozano, Ana Hernandez, Ray Lopez, Terry Meza, Abel
10 Herrero, Janie Lopez, and Josey Garcia; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the past half century, the Mexican American
12 Legislative Caucus has advanced issues important to the Latino
13 community while working to make the Lone Star State a better place
14 for all, and it is indeed appropriate to recognize its
15 contributions; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding
18 of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and honor its members
19 for their service to the citizens of Texas; and, be it further

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