

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, National and international experts on correctional
2 policy and human rights are meeting at The University of Texas at
3 Austin from April 23 through April 26, 2006, to discuss external
4 scrutiny of conditions in U.S. prisons and jails; and

5 WHEREAS, Adjunct Professor Michele Deitch of the Lyndon B.
6 Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT and Professor Michael
7 Mushlin of Pace Law School in New York have worked tirelessly to
8 identify experts from throughout the country and around the globe
9 to contribute to the conference, titled "Opening Up a Closed World:
10 What Constitutes Effective Prison Oversight?"; and

11 WHEREAS, The topic of independent prison oversight is
12 especially important at a time when the Texas criminal justice
13 system is proving that it can live up to constitutional ideals
14 without the need for court intervention and oversight; and

15 WHEREAS, Issues relating to the transparency and
16 accountability of correctional institutions matter both to those
17 who advocate for the protection of prisoners' rights and to those
18 who are charged with holding prisoners safely and humanely; and

19 WHEREAS, In bringing this conference to fruition, Michele
20 Deitch and Michael Mushlin have been instrumental in organizing an
21 event that is sure to stimulate dialogue and debate for years to
22 come and lead to significant reforms within the U.S. criminal
23 justice system; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

1 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Michele Deitch and
2 Michael Mushlin for their hard work and dedication in organizing
3 the conference "Opening Up a Closed World: What Constitutes
4 Effective Prison Oversight?"; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Michele Deitch and Michael Mushlin as an expression of
7 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.