

## RESOLUTION CONCERNING JESSICA'S LAW

WHEREAS, one of the most important functions of a society ruled by law is the protection of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Texas must also take additional steps to monitor sex offenders, to protect the public from them, and to provide adequate penalties for and safeguard against sex offenders, particularly those who prey on children, and existing laws that punish aggravated sexual assault, habitual sexual offenders, and child molesters must be strengthened and improved; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to curtail the violence against our children, Texas Republican state legislators have advanced one of the toughest versions of 'Jessica's Law' in the nation, and

WHEREAS, the proposed penalty, a mandatory 25 year to life sentence in prison for a first violent sexual offense against a minor under age 14 and the option of the death penalty on a second offense, fits the heinous nature of the crime; and

WHEREAS, the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology for tracking Registered Sex Offenders upon their release from incarceration is a useful tool for monitoring sexual predators and other sex offenders and is a cost effective measure for parole supervision, and it is critical to have close supervision of this class of criminals to monitor these offenders and prevent them from committing other crimes; and

WHEREAS, Texas can lead the way on this issue by also eliminating the statute of limitations for sexual offenses against our children under 14 and requiring background checks for employees and volunteers of our public school system, both of which are worthy and are needed changes to Texas law; and

WHEREAS, this proposed 'Jessica's Law' when enacted in Texas will insure that predators who sexually violate our most vulnerable citizens, children under 14 years of age, will pay a severe penalty; and

WHEREAS, The 2006 Republican Party platform urges the Legislature to enact a Jessica's Law for Texas;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Republican Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Texas strongly urges each Member of the Texas Legislature to vote for and support these tough provisions, and to pass Jessica's Law with the provisions and requirements outlined in this resolution and that a copy of this resolution be presented to each Member of the Texas Legislature as a demonstration of our support for this important legislation.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2007 by Texas SREC